

New variant

Biden says omicron is cause for concern but "not a cause for panic." **News, Page 4**

Twitter CEO to leave

Co-founder Jack Dorsey steps down as CEO of social media platform. **News, Page 8**

UConn men ranked 17th

Huskies move up to No. 17 in latest Associated Press poll. **Sports, Page 1**

Chilly

Thickening cloudiness and very cool; high of 40. **Sports, Page 6**

Hartford Courant



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CORONAVIRUS IN CONNECTICUT

Experts: 'We are better prepared'

Health officials say if variant is here, it likely will be found quickly

By Eliza Fawcett
Hartford Courant

While there were no reported cases of omicron, the new COVID-19 variant, in Connecticut as of Monday afternoon, health care

experts in the state say it may prove more detectable than other variants of the virus.

"I am very confident that we can detect omicron quickly," said Nathan Grubaugh, an assistant professor of epidemiology at the Yale School of Public Health, whose team tracks COVID-19 variants in Connecticut.

It is possible that omicron is already in Connecticut, but not yet

widely prevalent, Grubaugh said. But if the variant drives a significant local outbreak, he believes it could be detected within a week or less. In Connecticut, 10 to 30% of COVID-19 cases are sequenced per week, he noted, and sequencing systems can detect variants "at very low frequencies, even less than 1%."

Health care experts said that the state is in a strong position to

confront the new variant. Hartford HealthCare chief clinical officer Dr. Ajay Kumar advised the public Monday "not to panic" in response to the emergence of omicron, a message echoed on the national level by President Biden. The state Department of Public Health is monitoring the spread of the variant and urging residents to get vaccinated and seek out testing if unwell.

"We know what to do," Kumar said. "We have learned quite a bit in the last two years managing the pandemic ... we have more tools in our toolbox to manage patients. We are better prepared as a system, as a hospital."

The variant, designated by the World Health Organization as a "variant of concern" on Friday, was

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Giuliana Nolan, with Hartford HealthCare, assists a client with a self-administered test at a drive-thru COVID-19 testing site in Newington as the new omicron variant is emerging overseas. **MARK MIRKO PHOTOS/HARTFORD COURANT**

Variant reveals vaccine inequity

Hoarding doses aided environment for virus to mutate

By Maria Cheng
and Lori Hinnant
Associated Press

LONDON — The emergence of the new omicron variant and the world's desperate attempts to keep it at bay are reminders of what scientists have warned for months: The coronavirus will thrive as long as vast parts of the world lack vaccines.

The hoarding of limited COVID-19 shots by rich countries — creating virtual vaccine deserts in many poorer ones — doesn't just mean risk for the parts of the world seeing shortages; it threatens the entire globe.

That's because the more the disease spreads among unvaccinated populations, the more possibilities it has to mutate and potentially become more dangerous, prolonging the pandemic for everyone.

"The virus is a ruthless opportunist, and the inequity that has characterized the global response has now come home to roost," said Dr. Richard Hatchett, CEO of CEPPI, one of the groups behind the U.N.-backed COVAX shot-sharing initiative.

Perhaps nowhere is the inequality more evident than in Africa, where less than 7% of the population is vaccinated. South

Turn to Inequity, Page 3



COVID-19 tests are prepped at a drive-thru site in Newington.

Daily positive test rate highest since January

Number of new cases hits 7-month high as state's hospitalizations spike

By Alex Puttermann
Hartford Courant

Last week top officials, including Gov. Ned Lamont, reassured residents about Connecticut's growing COVID-19 outbreak by noting that each of the state's subsequent coronavirus spikes over nearly two years had been smaller than the last.

That is no longer the case, at least when measuring by positivity rate and the rate of new cases.

Connecticut on Monday reported a positivity rate of 5.25%,

highest in a single day in more than 10 months. The state's seven-day positivity rate now stands above 4% for the first time since last January, while its number of new cases over the past week has reached its highest level since April.

By those metrics, the recent spike is already more intense than the uptick Connecticut experienced this summer due to the delta variant, even with the omicron variant not yet likely

Turn to COVID-19, Page 3

unlawful restraint. He posted \$50,000 bail and is due in Superior Court in Torrington on Tuesday. Patel didn't return calls, and his lawyer, Noah Kores, said "no comment at this time."

According to the affidavit for his arrest, troopers responded to a women's crisis center Oct. 4 and talked to a client who said she was inappropriately touched more than once by the owner of the motel where she had been placed, the Hitching Post Country Motel, 45 Kent Road South in Cornwall. She only knew the man — who lives at the motel — as "Jack." A spokeswoman from the organization said her agency did not place the woman there, and she didn't know which one did.

The first day the woman was there in September, she saw that her shower was not working, so she knocked on his door and asked him to fix it. He told her to come

45 Kent Road South in Cornwall. She only knew the man — who lives at the motel — as "Jack." A spokeswoman from the organization said her agency did not place the woman there, and she didn't know which one did.

The first day the woman was there in September, she saw that her shower was not working, so she knocked on his door and asked him to fix it. He told her to come

Turn to Victim, Page 2

Hartford grants to help fund repairs for flood damage

Amid an outcry by residents and small businesses, the city of Hartford rolled out a \$500,000 grant program to help repair damage caused by heavy rainstorms this summer that flooded streets and basements and backed up sewers.

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FROM PAGE ONE

Victim

from Page 1

in and he started hugging her, she told the trooper. He then forcibly kissed her and squeezed her, the warrant says, stopping only when his wife pulled into the parking lot.

When the woman told Patel she didn't want him to touch her, he smirked and laughed, it says.

In another interview, she told police Patel wanted to know why she was there, but she did not feel comfortable talking about it, the warrant says. He kept saying, "It's going to be OK, I'm going to take care of you." Patel later told police he heard she had been kidnapped and raped.

The woman told police that Patel came to her room two more times over the next two days — to fix the shower and the television — and each time kissed and touched her against her will.

On the following day, Patel knocked on her door and told her the motel was booked for the weekend and she had to go to his hotel in Torrington. He also told her that the agency that had placed her at his Cornwall motel had wanted her to go there, according to the warrant.

He drove her to the Royal Inn, 19 Nathaniel St. in Torrington, guided her to a room for which he had a key card and said he'd be back. He came back and again kissed and groped her and told her that she could make money and "have dates," the warrant says. She told police she pushed him away and said no.

'Screamed as loud as I could'

A few days later, when the victim left her room, a hotel worker handed her a phone and indicated Patel was on the line. Patel told the victim he would not come get her until the rooms were clean. The worker gave her a piece of paper with nine room numbers on it, some underlined, and Patel told her the underlined ones were "my money rooms," the woman said. She would get \$100 for those rooms, he told her, according to the warrant. She assumed that meant he wanted her to have sexual contact with men, but she cleaned the rooms "because I wanted out of Torrington" and did not interact with guests.

Later that day, Patel came into her room with his own key and began taking off her clothes and his own the warrant says.

"I immediately screamed as loud as I could," she told police, and Patel stopped. He told her to get in the car and she did, the warrant says.

On the way back to Cornwall, he told her she lost him money, but didn't elaborate, according to the warrant. "He was mad that I would not stay there," it says. "He just kept saying he was mad that I lost him money. Jack never went into details as to why I lost him money."

He gave her \$40 for cleaning the room, the warrant says.

The next morning, she called the agency that had put her in the motel and a staff member "immediately came and picked me up and placed me in another loca-

tion," it says. "I truly believe Jack was trying to push me into prostitution," she told police.

She said Patel was trying to "take advantage of me because of the situation I was in," the warrant says. "While in Torrington, if I did not scream as loud as I could, Jack would have raped me."

In all, she told troopers, Patel groped her 12 times in his motel and hotel, according to the warrant.

Pattern of complaints

As they continued their investigation, the state police obtained three complaints about Patel to Torrington police that date back eight years. Taken together, the complaints "show a consistent pattern of complaints against Patel" by women with "a similar background as the victim," the warrant says.

In December 2013, a woman who lived at the Royal Inn reported an incident to Torrington police during which Patel "began to rub her arm and stated how sorry he was for the hard times she was going through." He then put his hands on her face and tried to kiss her, she said. The woman told police she backed away, shook her head and began crying. Patel stepped away, said he was sorry and that he was her friend and handed her \$15, the warrant says.

The woman told police she only reported the incident so it would be documented, it says.

Reading from the report of the incident, Torrington Det. Kevin Tieman said the investigating officer found that Patel did not commit

a crime. The officer wanted to talk to Patel, but the woman asked him not to because she had to stay there another week.

In September 2017, a complainant said she was working at the Royal Inn for a few weeks in exchange for a free room. She was asked to leave because she had allowed a friend to stay with her, and that was not permitted by the hotel. Patel came into her room unannounced, "and pushed her on the bed, then jumped on her," the warrant says. The lock on the door didn't work.

The woman who called police said, "Jack Patel would assault her and verbally abuse her," it says, causing her to be frightened of him — which is why she asked her friend to stay with her.

Tieman said the woman called police to help her remove her belongings from the room. Her complaints about Patel were unsubstantiated because she didn't follow up with police, and the case was closed.

According to the warrant, the third complaint was about an assault at the Royal Inn in October 2017. While police took information about the assault, they learned it involved a witness who said she was getting paid to have sex at the hotel.

She said the owner, who she also identified as "Jack," is a customer and specifically put her in Room No. 1 because surveillance cameras do not cover that area, the warrant says.

"The complainant stated that this is not only so the owner's wife cannot see him going in and out of the room but also because he is

aware of the illegal activity (prostitution) that takes place in the room," it says. He had a master key and has let himself in the room to have sex with her.

Tieman said the assault turned out to be a stabbing. The man who was stabbed in the leg claimed he stabbed himself while he was jumping out a hotel window.

Asked why police didn't further investigate the prostitute allegation, Tieman said there was a lack of credible witnesses.

'I am not a pimp'

In October, when state police talked to Patel, he was "very nervous and sweating profusely," the warrant says. They were at his home in the Cornwall Bridge motel because he "refused to go to Troop B."

Patel told the investigators he took the victim to the liquor store and purchased her a bottle of liquor on the second day she was staying there. He said they talked about her having been kidnapped and raped at some point in her life. He said he only hugged her, the warrant says.

Saying "I am not a pimp," Patel denied he lost money because of the woman, the warrant says. He also denied telling her she could make \$100 in certain rooms at his Torrington hotel, it says.

He told police the woman has "mental problems," the warrant says, and that he tries to "comfort people and be friendly."

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Variant

from Page 1

first reported in South Africa. By Sunday, omicron had been identified in Canada, marking its spread to North America.

Key questions about omicron remain unanswered, including precisely how transmissible it is, how well vaccines protect against it, and whether it leads to more severe disease.

"It is considered more transmissible than the previous variant, but we don't know the effectiveness of the vaccines," Kumar said, though he noted that early data suggest that the variant has mild effects on

"We have learned quite a bit in the last two years managing the pandemic ... we have more tools in our toolbox to manage patients."

— Dr. Ajay Kumar, Hartford HealthCare chief clinical officer

those who are vaccinated.

But Omicron does have a particular feature that makes it easier to recognize than other variants: a mutation at the site of one of the genes targeted by a PCR test, technically termed a "spike gene target failure." That genetic detail — which Grubaugh noted has not appeared in any samples over the past three weeks — may help scien-

tists quickly detect the variant as it spreads.

"Right now, delta and anything else that's circulating doesn't have that mutation, so I think if we started seeing that ... that would be a presumed omicron until the sequencing results could come back," said Mark Adams, deputy director of The Jackson Laboratory in Farmington. "The state has

already asked us to report if we see that."

Dr. Ulysses Wu, an infectious disease specialist at Hartford HealthCare, emphasized that even with the emergence of omicron, Connecticut's most pressing threat remains the delta variant, which currently drives COVID-19 transmission in the state.

"There is a variant out there that's doing a number on us, and that's delta," he said.

While it remains to be seen how effective COVID-19 vaccines are against omicron, vaccinations and boosters should deliver some degree of protection, experts say. Initial reports from South Africa indicate that omicron cases among

vaccinated individuals have been mild to moderate; the most severe cases have been concentrated among those who are not fully vaccinated.

For many local experts, the emergence of omicron means a renewed fight against COVID-19, armed with the same weapons that have been critical in slowing transmission throughout the pandemic: vaccinations, boosters, testing, masking and limiting risky social behaviors.

"The good advice is still the good advice," Adams, of the Jackson Lab, said.

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LOTTERY

Monday, Nov. 29

PLAY3 DAY

3 9 8 WB: 8

PLAY4 DAY

2 0 5 6 WB: 5

The late numbers were not drawn in time for this edition. For results, please visit courant.com/lottery.

SUNDAY'S LATE NUMBERS

PLAY3 NIGHT

3 7 2 WB: 0

PLAY4 NIGHT

2 4 8 4 WB: 8

CASH 5

1 4 15 20 32

LUCKY FOR LIFE

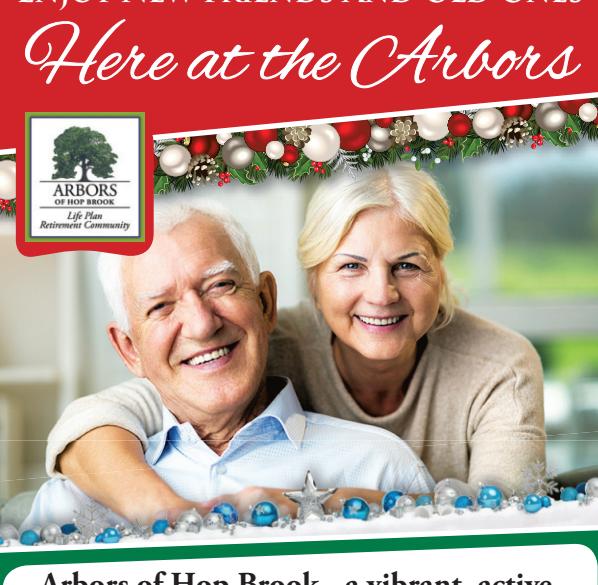
9 14 24 29 30 LB: 7

Tonight's est. Lotto jackpot: \$2.3 million

Tonight's est. Mega Millions jackpot: \$102 million

Wednesday's est. Powerball jackpot: \$253 million

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TRIBUNE PUBLISHING

FROM PAGE ONE

Hartford swears in fire, police chiefs

Barco, Thody take oaths in ceremony beset by delays

By Seamus McAvoy
Hartford Courant

Hartford Fire Chief Rodney Barco and Police Chief Jason Thody were officially sworn in to their permanent roles after months of pandemic-related delay at an intimate in-person ceremony Monday evening at the Hartford Public Library.

Barco, a lifelong Hartford resident who has been with the department his entire career, was named interim

fire chief in April and nominated to take on the position permanently in August. Thody has served as permanent police chief since March 2020, right before the onset of the pandemic.

"This is a long-delayed ceremony and celebration," Mayor Luke Bronin said Monday. "Quite long in one case and slightly shorter, but still long, in the other."

Thody was nominated to be the permanent chief of police in January 2020, opting to promote from within rather than conduct a nationwide search. Thody has been with the Hartford Police Department since graduating from the

Connecticut Police Academy in 1997.

Despite his experience and department expertise, Thody was heavily scrutinized by members of Hartford's city council, two of whom initially asked Bronin to withdraw his nomination in favor of a broader and more inclusive search process. The council eventually voted 7-2 to confirm him.

Bronin again stood by his pick as officers with the department returned a union-organized vote of no confidence in Thody this June as the department moved to address staffing and workload challenges and disciplinary issues.

"While we sometimes think that it is best to go outside and bring in a new perspective, there is also something enormously valuable about having the leadership of those who have come through the ranks through our departments," Bronin said Monday.

Thody replaced former Hartford Police Chief David Rosado, who left the department after 14 months to take a job with Pratt & Whitney.

Bronin complimented Barco's "steady, quiet leadership" and vast knowledge of the department, accumulated through over 25 years with the department.

Barco, who served in the

Marine Corps, joined the department as a firefighter in 1995 and was promoted to lieutenant in 2010. He was named captain in 2016 and made assistant chief in 2018. Barco took over for Reginald Freeman in April after the latter resigned to lead a larger department in Oakland, California.

"I think we have two great departments, and two great chiefs," Bronin said, praising the leadership displayed by both men in guiding the city during the better part of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Hartford city councilors John Gale and Shirley Surgeon joined Thomas "TJ" Clarke II, the council's

majority leader, in attendance Monday. Clarke, whose grandfather was a sergeant with Hartford police, expressed the council's support for both fire and police.

"Thank you for saying yes," Clark said, "because when many have left, you stood strong and you remained steadfast. Thank you for saying yes and thank you for stepping up to the plate."

Neither Barco nor Thody volunteered to make comments at Monday's ceremony.

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COVID-19

from Page 1

spreading in large quantities. Experts have attributed the current surge to cold weather forcing residents inside, where transmission occurs more easily.

COVID-19 hospitalizations remain at a lower level than during late August and early September but have trended in a concerning direction in recent weeks, reaching their highest level in several months.

Max Reiss, a Lamont spokesperson, acknowledged Monday that Connecticut's COVID-19 outbreak continued to worsen but noted that the state had experienced fewer cases and hospitalizations than at this time last year, before vaccines had been authorized.

"The difference between last year and this year is that as people are going indoors, they're vaccinated," Reiss said. "We don't know the size of this uptick, but the fact that we have the highest vaccination rate in the country and we're continuing to test at higher rates than other states, we at least have a stronger sense of what [the pandemic] looks like in our state right now, and our residents have more protection than others around the country."

State numbers continue to show that vaccinated people are significantly more protected against COVID-19 than unvaccinated people and that towns with high rates of vaccination have experienced fewer cases than those with relatively low rates of vaccination.

Cases and positivity rate

Connecticut reported



Giuliana Nolan, with Hartford Healthcare, assists Heath Cotton with a self-administered COVID-19 test at a drive-thru COVID-19 testing site in Newington as the new omicron variant is emerging overseas. **MARK MIRKO/HARTFORD COURANT**

2,312 new COVID-19 cases over the weekend, out of 42,719 tests, for a daily positivity rate of 5.25% — highest in a single day since Jan. 19. The state's seven-day positivity rate now stands at 4.29%, up significantly from last week and the highest it has been since Jan. 28.

The state has averaged 830 daily COVID-19 cases over the past week, its highest in a seven-day span since mid-April. Unvaccinated residents have been about five times as likely to test positive as vaccinated residents, according to state

data.

All eight Connecticut counties — as well as the rest of those in the Northeast region — are currently recording "high" levels of COVID-19 transmission as defined by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. With this level of transmission, the CDC advises people to wear a mask in public indoor settings.

Hospitalizations

As of Monday, Connecticut has 354 patients hospitalized with COVID-19, up 54 from Friday and the most at a time since Sept. 10. Hospitalizations have now increased 80% since Nov. 7.

Hospital officials say the vast majority of those hospitalized with serious COVID-19 symptoms are unvaccinated.

Deaths

Connecticut reports COVID-19 deaths once a week, typically on Thursdays.

Last week, the state reported 31 deaths, bringing its total during the pandemic

to 8,865.

The United States has now recorded 777,398 deaths related to COVID-19, according to the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University.

Vaccinations

As of Monday, 83.3% of all Connecticut residents

and 93.7% of those 12 and older had received at least one COVID-19 vaccine dose, while 71.7% of all residents and 82.3% of those 12 and older were fully vaccinated, according to the

CDC.

Additionally, 23.1% of fully vaccinated Connecticut residents 18 or older have received a booster dose.

As of this month, all adults

who received a Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna vaccine at least six months ago are now eligible for a booster shot, along with all adults

who received a Johnson & Johnson vaccine at least two months ago.

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Inequity

from Page 1

African scientists alerted the World Health Organization to the new omicron variant last week, though it may never be clear where it first originated. Researchers are now rushing to determine whether it is more infectious or able to evade current vaccines.

COVAX was supposed to avoid such inequality — but instead the initiative is woefully short of shots and has already abandoned its initial goal of 2 billion doses.

Even to reach its scaled-back target of distributing 1.4 billion doses by the end of 2021, it must ship more than 25 million doses every day. Instead, it has averaged just over 4 million a day since the

beginning of October, with some days dipping below 1 million, according to an Associated Press analysis of the shipments.

Shipments in recent days have ramped up, but nowhere near the amount needed.

Meanwhile, richer nations often have a glut of shots, and many are now offering boosters — something the WHO has discouraged because every booster is essentially a dose that is not going to someone who's never even gotten their first shot. Despite the U.N. health agency's appeal to countries to declare a moratorium on booster shots until the end of the year, more than 60 countries are now administering them.

"What it highlights are the continuing and fundamental

risks to everyone associated with not seriously addressing the inequalities still at play globally in the fight against disease and poor health," said Dr. Osman Dar, director of the One Health Project at the Chatham House think tank.

Anna Marriott, health policy manager for Oxfam, said COVAX was limited from the outset after being pushed to the back of the vaccine queue by rich countries.

"The COVAX team may be delivering as fast as they can, but they can't deliver vaccines they haven't got," Marriott said.

Just 13% of vaccines COVAX contracted for and 12% of promised donations have actually been delivered, according to calculations by the International Monetary

Fund from mid-November. About a third of the vaccines dispensed by COVAX have been donations, according to the vaccine alliance known as Gavi, and the initiative is now partly a clearinghouse for those donated doses, the very situation it was set up to avoid.

Last week, COVAX sent out a news release praising a European Union pledge to ship 100 million vaccines to Africa by the end of the year — but only 5% to 6% of that amount was actually on planes.

Asked about the logistical challenges of distributing the other roughly 94 million doses in only six weeks, Aurelia Nguyen, managing director of COVAX maintained that arrangements "are in place to move a vast number of doses between

now and the end of the year."

In a statement, she said the issue was ensuring that "conditions are right on the ground for doses to be administered."

In minutes released ahead of an executive meeting this week, Gavi fretted that the perception that rich countries are dumping older or lesser vaccines on poor countries could undermine the whole project.

On Monday, in a joint statement with WHO and the African Union among others, it admonished that "the majority of the donations to date have been ad hoc, provided with little notice and short shelf lives."

Fury over dose dumping is already very real. In Malawi and South Sudan, tens of thousands of out-of-date doses were destroyed.

But it's not just getting the vaccines into poorer countries that's a problem, according to some experts.

COVAX is "falling short on getting vaccines from the (airport) tarmac into people's arms," said Dr. Angela Wakhweya, senior director for health equity and rights at CARE.

Authorities in Congo, for instance, returned their entire COVAX shipment this summer when they realized they would not be able to administer doses before they expired.

Underfunded national health systems often struggle to distribute the shots where they're most needed, along with syringes and other necessary gear. Another issue is persuading sometimes hesitant people to get the vaccines.



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Omicron concerning, Biden says

But president adds new variant is 'not a cause for panic'

By Zeke Miller

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Joe Biden called the new coronavirus variant omicron a cause for concern but "not a cause for panic" Monday and said he was not considering any widespread U.S. lockdown. He urged Americans anew to get fully vaccinated, including booster shots, and return to face masks indoors in public settings to slow any spread.

Meanwhile, the World Health Organization warned Monday that the global risk from the omicron variant is "very high" based on the early evidence, saying the mutated coronavirus could lead to surges with "severe consequences."

The assessment from the U.N. health agency, contained in a technical paper issued to member states, amounted to WHO's strongest, most explicit warning yet about the new version that was first identified days ago by researchers in South Africa.

It came as a widening circle of countries around the world reported cases of the variant and moved to slam their doors in an act-now-ask-questions-later approach while scientists race to figure out just how dangerous the mutant version might be.

Japan announced it is barring entry to all foreign visitors, joining Israel in doing so. Morocco banned all incoming flights. Other countries, including the U.S. and members of the European Union, have moved to



President Biden and Dr. Anthony Fauci encouraged everyone to get vaccinated or a booster shot. ANNA MONEYMAKER/GETTY

prohibit travelers arriving from southern Africa.

While no deaths linked to omicron have been reported so far, little is known for certain about the variant, including whether it is more contagious, more likely to cause serious illness or more able to evade vaccines.

Last week, a WHO advisory panel said it might be more likely to re-infect people who have already had a bout with COVID-19.

Speaking Monday at the White House, Biden said it was inevitable that the new variant would reach the U.S., but he also said the country has the tools necessary to protect Americans — particularly the approved vaccines

and booster shots.

When omicron arrives, and it will, Biden said, America will "face this new threat just as we've faced those that have come before it."

He appealed to the roughly 80 million unvaccinated Americans age 5 and up to get their shots, and for the rest of the country to seek out booster shots six months after their second dose.

He also encouraged everyone to get back to wearing face masks in all indoor public settings — a pandemic precaution that has fallen out of use across much of the country.

Separately, the Centers for Disease Control and Preven-

tion broadened its recommendation for COVID-19 booster shots to include all adults because of the new variant. The agency had previously approved boosters for all adults, but only recommended them for those 50 years and older or living in long-term care settings.

"Everyone ages 18 and older should get a booster shot either when they are six months after their initial Pfizer or Moderna series or two months after their initial J&J vaccine," CDC Director Dr. Rochelle Walensky said in a statement.

Biden was joined by Dr. Anthony Fauci, the nation's top infectious disease expert

and the president's COVID-19 adviser, who said earlier Monday that scientists hope to know in the next week or two how well the existing COVID-19 vaccines protect against the variant, and how dangerous it is compared to earlier strains.

"We really don't know," Fauci told ABC's "Good Morning America," calling speculation premature.

Some other nations are reinstating severe travel and business lockdowns to prevent the omicron variant from spreading, but Biden indicated the U.S. was not following suit.

"If people are vaccinated and wear their mask, there's no need for lockdowns," he

said.

Fauci said earlier on "CBS Mornings" that limiting travel from the countries where omicron was first identified "buys you a couple of weeks because if you can keep things out in force for a couple of weeks you can do a lot of things."

Pharmaceutical companies are already adjusting their existing COVID-19 vaccines to better attack the omicron variant, but Fauci said Americans should make it a priority to get either their first shots or a booster dose now, rather than waiting for a new formulation.

"I would strongly suggest you get boosted now," he said.

He added that depending on what scientists learn about the omicron variant in the coming weeks "we may not need" targeted boosters to contain that strain of the virus.

Any omicron-specific vaccine probably could not begin to be produced for another two or three months, so getting boosters now is a "very important initial line of defense," Dr. Paul Burton, chief medical officer for the vaccine-maker Moderna, said Monday.

Noting that the new variant, like earlier ones, sprang up overseas in areas with lower vaccination rates, Biden said it was both a moral imperative and in America's self-interest to speed up global vaccinations.

He noted that the U.S. has already donated more than 275 million doses — more than the rest of the world combined — and is on pace to deliver more than 1.1 billion doses globally by September 2022.

Ex-DOJ official to face contempt vote by panel

Jan. 6 investigation seeks to have Clark answer questions

By Mary Clare Jalonick
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A House committee investigating the Jan. 6 insurrection at the U.S. Capitol will vote Wednesday to hold a former Justice Department official in contempt, demanding criminal charges against a defiant witness for a second time as lawmakers seek answers about the violent attack.

The committee on Monday scheduled a vote to pursue contempt charges against Jeffrey Clark, a former Justice Department lawyer who aligned with President Donald Trump as he tried to overturn his election defeat. If approved by the panel, the recommendation of criminal contempt charges would then go to the full House for a vote and then to the Justice Department.

Clark appeared for a deposition Nov. 5 but told lawmakers that he would not answer questions based partly on Trump's legal efforts to block the committee's investigation.

The vote will come as the

panel is also considering contempt charges against former White House chief of staff Mark Meadows, who was Trump's top aide the day that hundreds of his supporters violently attacked the Capitol and interrupted the certification of President Joe Biden's victory. Meadows was subpoenaed in September but has not yet sat for an interview with the committee.

The panel has vowed to aggressively seek charges against any witness who doesn't comply as they investigate the worst attack on the Capitol in two centuries, and the Justice Department has signaled it is willing to pursue those charges, indicting longtime Trump ally Steve Bannon earlier this month on two federal counts of criminal contempt. Attorney General Merrick Garland said then that Bannon's indictment reflects the department's "steadfast commitment" to the rule of law after Bannon outright defied the committee and refused to cooperate.

Clark's case could be more complicated since he did appear for his deposition and, unlike Bannon, was a Trump administration official on Jan. 6. Trump has sued to block

After Clark refused to



Ex-Justice Department lawyer Jeffrey Clark appeared this month for a deposition by a panel examining the Jan. 6 riot. He refused to answer questions. SUSAN WALSH/POOL VIA AP 2020

answer questions, Thompson said it was "astounding" that someone who so recently held a position of public trust to uphold the Constitution would now hide behind vague claims of privilege by a former President, refuse to answer questions about an attack on our democracy, and continue an assault on the rule of law."

Lawmakers on the committee have said that they will decide as soon as this week whether to hold Meadows in contempt, as well. Thompson said earlier

this month that the committee "won't rush the effort" to make it clear it has given the former North Carolina congressman multiple opportunities to cooperate.

Meadows' lawyer has repeatedly said his client won't comply with the September subpoena, arguing that Trump has said he will assert executive privilege over the testimony.

The committee has rejected those arguments, especially as the White House has said that Biden would waive any privilege over Meadows'

interview and as courts have so far shot down Trump's efforts to stop the committee from gathering information.

The House panel has argued they have questions for Meadows and Clark, as they did with Bannon, that do not directly involve conversations with Trump and couldn't possibly be blocked by privilege claims.

In the committee's September subpoena, Thompson cited Meadows' efforts to overturn Trump's defeat in the weeks prior to the insurrection.

At Smollett trial, 2 brothers to take center stage

By Don Babwin
Associated Press

CHICAGO — Two brothers stand at the center of the case that prosecutors will lay before jurors during the trial of Jussie Smollett this week.

The former "Empire" actor contends he was the victim of a racist and homophobic assault in downtown Chicago on a frigid night in January 2019. The siblings, who worked with him on the TV show, say he paid them \$3,500 to

pose as his attackers.

Jury selection began

Monday and six jurors had been seated in the Chicago courtroom by early afternoon. Judge James Linn, who said he expects the trial to take about one week, was asking potential jurors if they have been the victim of a hate crime, if they have watched "Empire" or TMZ, a program and website about celebrities, or if they belong to any civil rights or pro-police organizations. Cameras are not allowed

inside the courtroom and the proceedings are not being livestreamed.

Smollett, who arrived at the courthouse with family members accused of lying to police about the alleged attack and has been charged with felony disorderly conduct.

The crime carries a prison sentence of up to three years but experts have said it is more likely that if Smollett is convicted, he would be placed on probation.

Whether Smollett testifies

remains an open question. But the siblings, Abimbola and Olabinjo Osundairo,

will take the witness stand where they are expected to repeat what they have told police officers and prosecutors: that they carried out the attack at Smollett's behest.

Jurors also may see surveillance video from more than four dozen cameras that police reviewed to trace the brothers' movements before and after the reported attack.



Former "Empire" star Jussie Smollett arrives Monday at court in downtown Chicago. KAMIL KRZACZYNSKI/GETTY-AFP

WORLD & NATION

Prosecutor: Maxwell, Epstein 'partners in crime'

By Larry Neumeister
and Tom Hays
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Ghislaine Maxwell and Jeffrey Epstein were "partners in crime" who made the sexual abuse of teenage girls since at least 1994 seem normal and casual, a prosecutor told jurors Monday at the opening of Maxwell's sex trafficking trial.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Lara Pomerantz said that Epstein and Maxwell, a Brit-

ish socialite, enticed girls as young as age 14 to engage in "so-called massages" by showering them with money and gifts before they were sexually abused.

The prosecutor sought to make clear to a jury of 12 that there was no confusion about whether Maxwell, Epstein's longtime companion, was his puppet or accomplice.

She described the 59-year-old woman as central to



Epstein's sex abuse scheme, which prosecutors say lasted over a decade.

"She was in on it from the start. The defendant and Epstein lured their victims with a promise of a bright future, only to sexually exploit them," Pomerantz said.

Maxwell "was involved in every detail of Epstein's life," the prosecutor said. "The defendant was the lady of the house."

Even after Maxwell and Epstein stopped being romantically involved, the pair "remained the best of friends," Pomerantz said.

She said Maxwell "helped normalize abusive sexual conduct" by making the teenagers feel safe and by taking them on shopping trips and asking them about their lives, their schools and their families.

The prosecutor spoke from an enclosed plastic see-through box that allowed her to take off her

mask. Maxwell, wearing a cream-colored sweater and black pants, was at times writing and passing notes to her lawyers.

A defense lawyer was to follow the prosecutor's opening.

The openings came in the afternoon, after hours in the morning were lost to questions about whether two prospective jurors could work throughout the six weeks the trial is projected to last.

During the morning,

Maxwell gazed frequently at her sister, who was seated in the front row of a spectator section diminished in space by restrictions due to coronavirus.

One prospective juror was dismissed after he acknowledged he'd had to listen to someone he knew who was "passionate" about the case. Another juror's employment was in jeopardy until the judge contacted the employer to speed the process of approval for the juror's service.

US nuclear tests test ties with a longtime ally

Experts fear China will gain from spat with Marshallese

By Matthew Lee
and Nick Perry
Associated Press

WELLINGTON, New Zealand — For decades, the tiny Marshall Islands has been a stalwart American ally. Its location in the middle of the Pacific Ocean has made it a key strategic outpost for the U.S. military.

But that loyalty is being tested amid a dispute with Washington over the terms of its "Compact of Free Association" agreement, which expires soon. The U.S. is refusing to engage the Marshallese on claims for environmental and health damage caused by dozens of nuclear tests it carried out in the 1940s and '50s, including a huge thermonuclear blast on Bikini Atoll.

The dispute has some U.S. lawmakers worried that China might be willing to step into the breach, adding to a bruising competition for geopolitical dominance between the two superpowers.

Since World War II, the U.S. has treated the Marshall Islands, along with Micro-



Marshallese enjoy an afternoon game of volleyball on a beach in Majuro Atoll in the Marshall Islands, a strategic outpost for the U.S. military. ROB GRIFFITH/AP 2015

nesia and Palau, much like territories. On the Marshall Islands, the U.S. has developed military, intelligence and aerospace facilities in a region where China is particularly active.

In turn, U.S. money and jobs have benefited the Marshall Islands' economy. And many Marshallese have taken advantage of their ability to live and work in the U.S., moving in the thousands to Arkansas, Hawaii and Oklahoma.

But this month, 10 Democratic and Republican members of the House of Representatives wrote to President Joe Biden's national security adviser,

Jake Sullivan, about the U.S. compact talks with the Marshalls, Micronesia and Palau.

"It is distressing that these negotiations do not appear to be a priority — there have been no formal meetings since this Administration began — even as our international focus continues shifting to the Indo-Pacific," they wrote.

The lawmakers said the delays were putting the U.S. in a weaker position, and "China is all too ready to step in and provide the desperately needed infrastructure and climate resiliency investment that is sought by these long-time

partners."

China's Foreign Ministry said the U.S. should face up to its responsibility to restore the environmental damage it caused with its nuclear tests. It said China was willing to engage with the Marshall Islands and other Pacific island nations on the basis of mutual respect and cooperation under the "One China Principle," in which Taiwan is viewed as part of China.

"We welcome efforts to boost economic relations and improve the quality of life between the sides," the ministry said in a statement.

China has steadily poached allies from Taiwan in the Pacific, including Kiribati and the Solomon Islands in 2019. Just this month, angry protesters in the Solomons set fire to buildings and looted stores in unrest that some have linked to the China switch.

James Matayoshi, the mayor of Rongelap Atoll on the Marshall Islands, said he and hundreds of others have remained displaced from their atoll since the nuclear tests and want to see it revitalized. He said officials have been talking with potential investors from Asia, after a previous proposal by a Chinese-Marshallese businessman

fell through.

"It would be a business transaction. We don't advocate for war or any superpower influence," Matayoshi said. "But we want to be able to live in our backyard, and enjoy life here."

Like many others on the Marshall Islands, Matayoshi believes a U.S. settlement of \$150 million agreed to in the 1980s fell well short of addressing the nuclear legacy. He said his late mother was pregnant at the time of one massive nuclear blast and got exposed to radiation that was the equivalent of 25,000 X-rays before giving birth to a stillborn baby.

But the U.S. position has remained static for more than 20 years, the last time the compact came up for renegotiation. The U.S. maintains that nuclear compensation was dealt with in a "full and final settlement" and cannot be reopened.

Marshallese Sen. David Paul — who is on the islands' negotiating committee and also represents Kwajalein Atoll, which is home to a major U.S. military base — said continuing high cancer rates and the displacement of people remain huge issues.

"Everyone knows the negotiations at that time

were not fair or equitable," Paul said. "When you look at the total cost of property damage and the ongoing health issues to date, it's a drop in the bucket. It's an insult."

Various estimates put the true cost of the damage at about \$3 billion, including for repairs to a massive nuclear waste facility known as the Cactus Dome that environmentalists say is leaking toxic waste into the ocean.

"We know that's important, but there is a full and final settlement, and both sides agreed to it," said a senior U.S. official who wasn't authorized to publicly discuss the issue and spoke on condition of anonymity.

"So, that issue is just not subject to being reopened. But, we're still quite willing to work with the (Marshallese) on the broader issues that are important to us and that's what we hope to do."

Sen. Paul said the American approach needs to change.

"I believe the U.S. has the legal and moral obligation to make sure they clean up this debris," Paul said. "We want to make sure we get a better deal this time around. As they say, the third time is a charm."

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Attorney Brendan F. Daly

Dems bucking party see GOP bucks

Donors line up as Manchin, Sinema curb Biden's agenda

By Kenneth P. Vogel
and Kate Kelly

The New York Times

WASHINGTON — Over the summer, as he was working to scale back President Joe Biden's domestic agenda, Sen. Joe Manchin of West Virginia traveled to an \$18 million mansion in Dallas for a fundraiser that attracted Republican and corporate donors who have cheered on his efforts.

In September, Sen. Kyrsten Sinema of Arizona, who along with Manchin has been a major impediment to the White House's efforts to pass its package of social and climate policy, stopped by the same home to raise money from a similar cast of donors for her campaign coffers.

Even as Sinema and Manchin, both Democrats, have drawn fire from the left for their efforts to shrink and reshape Biden's proposals, they have won growing financial support from conservative-leaning donors and business executives in a striking display of how party affiliation can prove secondary to special interests and ideological motivations when the stakes are high enough.

Sinema is winning more financial backing from Wall Street and constituencies on the right in large part for her opposition to raising personal and corporate income tax rates. Manchin has attracted new Republican-leaning donors as he has fought against much of his own party to scale back the size of Biden's legislation and limit new social welfare components.

It is not unusual for well-heeled political activists and business interests to spread a smattering of cash across party lines. Rep. Liz Cheney, R-Wyo., collected a handful of checks from major Demo-



Democratic Sens. Joe Manchin of West Virginia, left, and Kyrsten Sinema of Arizona are seen on Capitol Hill earlier this month. Both are attracting campaign contributions from business interests and conservative donors. AL DRAGO/THE NEW YORK TIMES

catic donors this year as she bucked her party leadership's defense of former President Donald Trump.

But the stream of cash to the campaigns of Sinema and Manchin from outside normal Democratic channels stands out because many of the donors have little history with them. The financial support is also notable for how closely tied it has been to their power over a single piece of legislation, the fate of which continues to rest largely with the two senators because their party cannot afford to lose either of their votes in the evenly divided Senate.

Their influence has been profound. The domestic policy bill, which would expand the social safety net and efforts to fight climate change, started out at \$3.5 trillion and has been shrunk — mainly at the insistence of Manchin — to around \$2 trillion; it could get smaller.

as the Senate takes up the version passed Nov. 19 by the House. New spending measures were originally to have been paid for mostly through tax-rate increases on the wealthy and corporations — a component of the plan that had to be substantially rewritten because of Sinema's opposition.

This month, billionaire Wall Street investor Kenneth Langone, a longtime Republican megadonor who has not previously contributed to Manchin, effusively praised him for showing "guts and courage" and vowed to throw "one of the biggest fundraisers I've ever had for him."

In a statement to The New York Times, Langone, who has given an overwhelming majority of his millions of dollars in federal political donations to Republicans, said, "My political contributions have always been in support of candidates who are willing to stand tall on

principle, even when that means defying their own party or the press."

Stanley Hubbard, a billionaire Republican donor, wrote his first check to Sinema in September and said that he was considering doing the same for Manchin because of their efforts to trim the sails of the Democrats' agenda. "Those are two good people — Manchin and Sinema — and I think we need more of those in the Democratic Party," he said.

Cash has also poured in for Manchin and Sinema from political action committees and donors linked to the finance and pharmaceutical industries, which opposed proposals initially included in the domestic policy bill that the lawmakers helped scale back, including changes to Medicare and the tax-rate increases.

John LaBombard, a spokesman for Sinema, rejected any suggestion that

campaign cash factored into her approach to policymaking. She was a lead negotiator on the bipartisan infrastructure deal that Biden signed this month, and during her time in the Senate, she has positioned herself as an ideologically flexible centrist willing to buck her party in representing a purple state.

"Sen. Sinema makes decisions based on one consideration: what's best for Arizona," LaBombard said.

Manchin's office did not respond to requests for comment. But he has expressed concern that the legislation, if not cut to the level he is seeking, would add to the budget deficit and could fuel inflation.

The lawmakers share a campaign finance consultant, who helped organize fundraising swings through Texas for both lawmakers that yielded cash from Republican donors, as well as a fundraiser for Sinema in

Washington in late September with business lobbying groups that oppose the domestic policy bill.

Manchin has long been to the right of his party on litmus-test issues like abortion rights and fossil fuels, while Sinema started her political career as a liberal activist before shifting to the center. One Wall Street executive joked that in his industry, Sinema — who as a young politician once likened political donations to "bribery" — was now referred to as "Saint Sinema" for opposing most of Biden's proposed taxes on the wealthy. (She has, however, supported a 15% corporate minimum tax and other revenue-raising measures that will help pay for Biden's legislative spending.)

Wealthy liberals recently began an effort to lay the groundwork for a primary challenge to Sinema in 2024, and liberal group Demand Progress wrote in a petition that "a small group of right-wing Democrats backed by corporate cash, including Joe Manchin and Kyrsten Sinema, are trying to destroy" Biden's legislative agenda.

G. Brint Ryan, the Republican donor who hosted the fundraisers in Dallas for Manchin and Sinema, said the senators were "out of step with their party, but I tend to believe that they're in the right."

In the days around the fundraisers at his home, Ryan, his employees, his company's political action committee and a relative's law firm combined to donate nearly \$80,000 to Sinema's campaign and more than \$115,000 to Manchin's.

The \$2.6 million raised by Sinema's campaign through the first nine months of this year was 2 1/2 times as much as she raised in the same period last year, while the \$3.3 million raised by Manchin's campaign was more than 14 times as much as his haul through the end of September last year.



Prince Albert II of Monaco on Monday takes soil that will be added to the Pantheon to honor Josephine Baker. The late singer will remain buried in Monaco. VALERY HACHE/GTETTY-AFP

Josephine Baker poised to make history one more time

By Arno Pedram
and Sylvie Corbet

Associated Press

PARIS — France is inducting Josephine Baker — Missouri-born cabaret dancer, French World War II spy and civil rights activist — into its Pantheon, the first Black woman honored in the final resting place of France's most revered luminaries.

On Tuesday, a coffin carrying soils from the U.S., France and Monaco — places where Baker made her mark — will be deposited inside the domed Pantheon monument overlooking the Left Bank of Paris. Her body will stay in Monaco, at the request of her family.

French President Emmanuel Macron decided on her entry into the Pantheon, responding to a petition. In addition to honoring an exceptional figure in French history, the move is meant to send a message against racism and celebrate U.S.-French connections.

"She embodies, before anything, women's freedom," Laurent Kupferman, the author of the petition

for the move, told Associated Press.

Baker was born in 1906, in St. Louis. At 19, having already divorced twice, had relationships with men and women, and started a performing career, she moved to France following a job opportunity.

"She arrives in France in 1925, she's an emancipated woman, taking her life in her hands, in a country of which she doesn't even speak the language," Kupferman said.

She met immediate success on the Theatre des Champs-Elysées stage, where she appeared topless and wearing a famed banana belt. Her show, embodying the colonial time's racist stereotypes about African women and celebration.

Baker's career took a more serious turn after that, as she learned to speak five languages and toured internationally. She became a French citizen after her marriage in 1937 to industrialist Jean Lion, a Jewish man who later suffered from anti-Semitic laws of the collaborationist Vichy regime.

In September 1939, as France and Britain declared war against Nazi Germany, Baker got in touch with the head of the French counterintelligence services. She started working as an informant, traveling, getting close to officials and sharing information hidden on her music sheets, according to French military archives.

After France's defeat in June 1940, she refused to play for the Nazis who occupied Paris and moved to southwestern France. She continued to work for the French Resistance, using her artistic performances as a cover for her spying activities.

After the war, Baker got involved in anti-racist politics. She fought against American segregation during a 1951 performance tour of the U.S., causing her to be targeted by the FBI, labeled a communist and banned from her homeland for a decade.

The ban was lifted by President John F. Kennedy in 1963, and she returned to be the only woman to speak at the March on Washington, before Martin Luther King's famed "I Have a Dream" speech.

President Joe Biden has signaled he wants to rejoin the talks. The last round, aimed at bringing Iran back into compliance with the agreement and paving the way for the U.S. to rejoin, was held in June.

"There is a sense of urgency in putting an end to the suffering of the Iranian

Talks to revive Iran nuclear deal resume; US still distant

By Kiyoko Metzler

Associated Press

VIENNA — Negotiators in Vienna resumed talks Monday over reviving Iran's 2015 nuclear deal with world powers, with the United States taking part at arm's length as in previous rounds since the Trump administration pulled out of the accord three years ago.

Hopes of quick progress were muted after a hard-line new government in Tehran led to a more than five-month hiatus in negotiations. But the European Union official chairing the talks sounded an upbeat note after the first meeting concluded.

"I feel positive that we can be doing important things for the next weeks," EU diplomat Enrique Mora said.

All participants showed a willingness to listen to the positions and "sensibilities" of the new Iranian delegation, Mora said. At the same time, Tehran's team made clear it wanted to engage in "serious work" to bring the accord back to life, he said.

The remaining signatories to the nuclear deal formally known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action — Iran, Russia, China, France, Germany and Britain — convened at the Palais Coburg, a luxury hotel where the agreement was signed six years ago.

A U.S. delegation headed by the Biden administration's special envoy for Iran, Robert Malley, stayed at a nearby hotel where it was briefed on the talks by diplomats from the other countries.

President Joe Biden has

people," said Mora, referring to the crippling sanctions the U.S. reimposed on Iran when it quit the accord.

"And there is a sense of urgency in putting the Iranian nuclear program under the transparent monitoring of the international community," he said.

The United States left the deal under then-President Donald Trump's "maximum pressure" campaign against Tehran in 2018.

The nuclear deal saw Iran limit its enrichment of uranium in exchange for the lifting of economic sanctions. Since the deal's collapse, Iran now enriches small amounts of uranium up to 60% purity — a short step from weapons-grade levels of 90%.

Iran also spins advanced centrifuges barred by the accord, and its uranium stockpile now far exceeds the accord's limits.

Iran maintains its atomic program is peaceful. However, U.S. intelligence agencies and international inspectors say Iran had an organized nuclear weapons program up until 2003. Nonproliferation experts fear the brinkman-

ship could push Tehran toward even more extreme measures to try to force the West to lift sanctions.

Making matters more difficult, United Nations nuclear inspectors remain unable to fully monitor Iran's program after Tehran limited their access. A trip to Iran last week by the head of the International Atomic Energy Agency, Rafael Grossi, failed to make any progress on that issue.

Russia's top representative, Mikhail Ulyanov, said he held "useful" informal consultations with officials from Iran and China on Sunday. That meeting, he said, was aimed at "better understanding ... the updated negotiating position of Tehran." He tweeted a picture of a meeting Monday he described as a preparatory session with members before Iran joined the discussions.

A delegation appointed by new Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi is joining negotiations for the first time. Iran has made demands, including calls for the U.S. to unfreeze \$10 billion in assets as an initial goodwill gesture.



European Union diplomat Enrique Mora meets members of the media Monday outside Palais Coburg in Vienna, site of the Iran nuclear talks. VLADIMIR SIMICEK/GTETTY-AFP

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WORLD & NATION

NEWS BRIEFING

Pentagon orders new inquiry into deadly US airstrike in '19 in Syria

From news services

U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin on Monday ordered a new high-level investigation into a U.S. airstrike in Syria in 2019 that killed dozens of women and children, according to a senior Defense Department official.

The investigation by Gen. Michael Garrett, the four-star head of the Army's Forces Command, will examine the strike, which was carried out by a shadowy, classified Special Operations unit called Task Force 9, as well as the handling of the task force's investigation by higher military headquarters and the Defense Department's inspector general, the official said.

Garrett will have 90 days to review inquiries already conducted into the episode, and further investigate reports of civilian casualties, whether any violations of laws of war occurred, record-keeping errors, whether any recommendations from earlier reviews were carried out, and whether anyone should be held accountable, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the investigation had not been announced.

Austin's decision comes in the wake of a New York Times investigation this month that described allegations that top officers and civilian officials had sought to conceal the casualties.

The Syria airstrike took place near the town of Baghuz on March 18, 2019, as part of the final battle against Islamic State fighters in a shard of a once-sprawling religious state across Iraq and Syria. It was among the largest episodes of civilian casualties in the yearslong war against the group, but the U.S. military had never publicly acknowl-

edged it.

The classified task force investigated the strike and acknowledged that four civilians were killed, but it also concluded that there had been no wrongdoing by the Special Operations unit. In October 2019, the task force sent its findings to the Central Command headquarters in Tampa, Florida.

But Central Command officials did not follow up and failed to remind a subordinate military headquarters in Baghdad to do so, in what Capt. Bill Urban, a Central Command spokesperson, described as "an administrative oversight."

Vaccine mandate: The Supreme Court has turned away an emergency appeal from employees at the largest hospital system in Massachusetts who object to the COVID-19 vaccine on religious grounds.

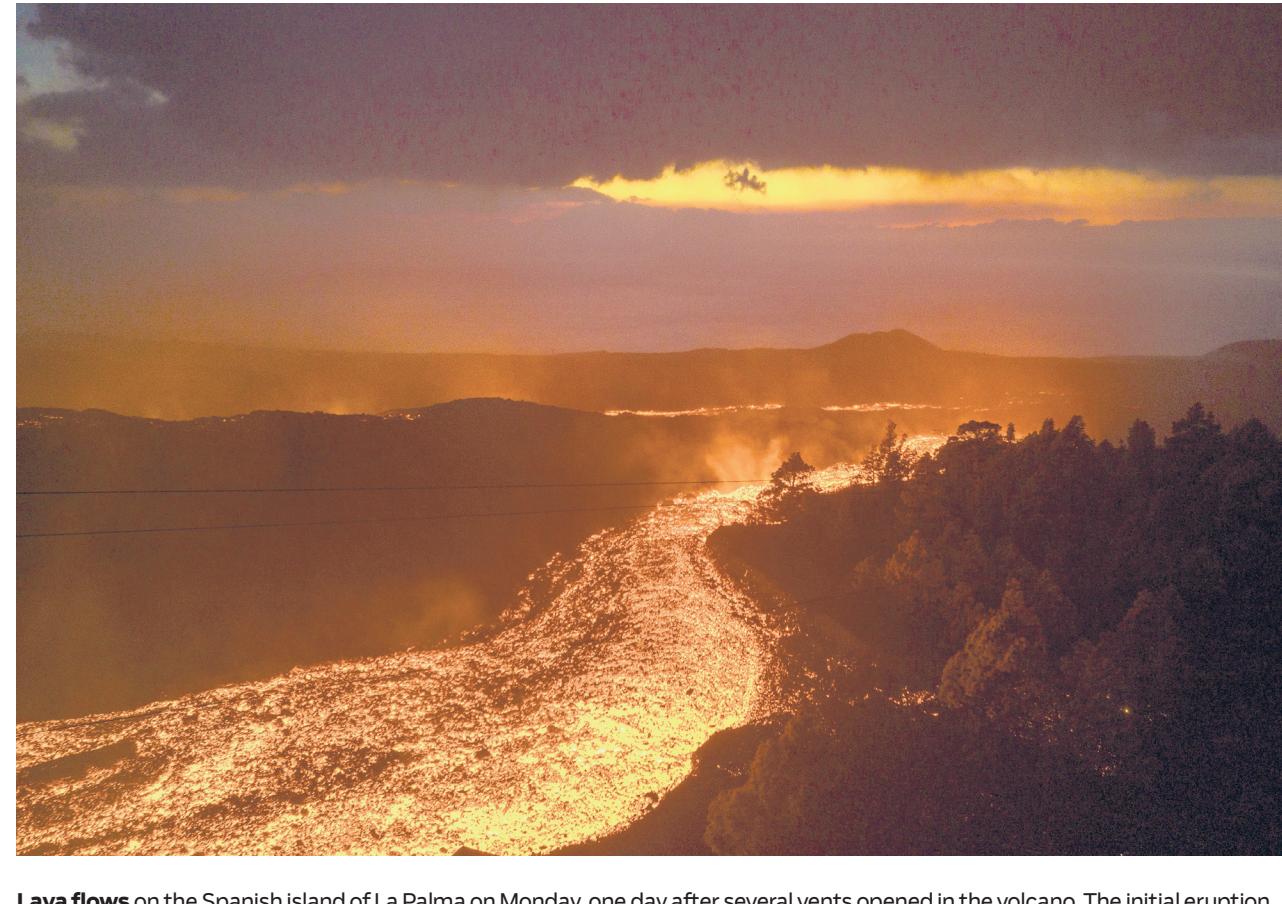
Justice Stephen Breyer did not comment Monday in rejecting the request from employees at Mass General Brigham for a religious exemption to the system's vaccine requirement. Lawyers for the employees said in court papers that six have been fired, one has resigned, and another was vaccinated.

Mass General Brigham, which with 80,000 workers is the state's largest private employer, told employees they would be terminated if they did not receive their first shot by Nov. 5.

The employees who sued contend the requirement violates federal workplace discrimination laws.

Word of the year: With an expanded definition to reflect the times, Merriam-Webster has declared an omnipresent truth as its 2021 word of the year: vaccine.

"This was a word that was



Lava flows on the Spanish island of La Palma on Monday, one day after several vents opened in the volcano. The initial eruption in the western end of the Canary Islands began on Sept. 19. Flights to La Palma resumed over the weekend after a week of cancellations due to blowing volcanic ash. Tourism remains a key industry for all of the Canary Islands. **EMILIO MORENATTI/AP**

extremely high in our data every single day in 2021," Peter Sokolowski, Merriam-Webster's editor-at-large, told The Associated Press ahead of Monday's announcement.

The selection follows "vax" as word of the year from the Oxford English Dictionary. And it comes after Merriam-Webster chose "pandemic" as tops in lookups last year on its online site.

At Merriam-Webster, lookups for "vaccine" increased 601% over 2020.

Honduras election: Opposition candidate Xiomara Castro inched closer to an astounding presidential victory Monday, promising a new era of democratic inclusion in Honduras where despair has driven hundreds of thousands to the U.S. border seeking refuge in recent years.

Castro, 62, held a 20 percentage-point lead over the candidate of the incumbent National Party with 51%

of the ballot boxes counted. The results of the Sunday vote appeared to show a stunning repudiation of the National Party's 12-year rule, which was shaped by pervasive corruption, dismantling of democratic institutions and accusations of links with drug cartels.

Thousands of Hondurans poured into the streets to celebrate what they believed was Castro's insurmountable lead, shooting fireworks and singing "JOH, JOH, and away you go," a reference to the deeply unpopular outgoing President Juan Orlando Hernández.

The National Party refused to concede, asserting that it will win once all the votes are counted. But the president of Honduras' business chamber congratulated Castro on her apparent victory.

Military study: After months of study, the Pentagon has decided no immediate major changes are needed in the global positioning of

U.S. forces, although it will further analyze force needs in the Middle East and make refinements in Asia and the Pacific, officials said Monday.

The outcome of the study, which began in March at Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin's direction, reflects a complex security picture facing the Biden administration, which fully withdrew from Afghanistan in August but is increasingly concerned about countering China in the Asia-Pacific region and Russia in Europe.

Iran presents a further challenge, including in Iraq and Syria.

The Austin review is the first of several broad assessments by the administration of its defense priorities and policies. They include a reassessment of nuclear forces — their size and makeup, as well as the policies associated with their potential use — that is due to be finished early next year.

Scottish independence:

Scotland's leader said Monday that she will renew her push for independence from the United Kingdom next year, with the aim of holding a referendum on secession in 2023.

First Minister Nicola Sturgeon said the independence campaign, stalled by the pandemic, "will resume in earnest" in spring 2022, "COVID permitting."

Scottish voters opted to remain part of the United Kingdom by a margin of 55% to 45% in a 2014 referendum that was billed as a once-in-a-generation choice. But the SNP, which heads the Scottish government, argues that Britain's departure from the European Union last year has changed the political and economic landscape.

Sturgeon faces a big obstacle to a new independence vote: British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, whose government must agree to a binding referendum. Johnson is adamant he won't consent.

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BUSINESS

COURANT.COM/BUSINESS

Twitter's Dorsey hands reins to technology chief

Co-founder faced criticism and banned Trump from platform after Jan. 6 riot

By Michelle Chapman and Tali Arbel

Associated Press

Twitter co-founder Jack Dorsey has stepped down as CEO of the social media platform. He has been succeeded by Twitter's current chief technology officer, Parag Agrawal.

Dorsey will remain on the board until his term expires in 2022. Agrawal joined Twitter in 2011 and has been CTO since 2017.

In a letter posted on his Twitter account, Dorsey said he was "really sad ... yet really happy" about leaving the company and that it was his decision. On Sunday, Dorsey had sent a cryptic tweet reading only "I love Twitter."

Twitter was caught up in the heated political atmosphere leading up to the 2020 election, particularly when it banned former President Donald Trump following his incitement of the Jan. 6 riot at the U.S. Capitol. Dorsey defended the move, saying Trump's tweets after the event resulted in a risk to public safety and created an "extraordinary and untenable circumstance" for the

company. Trump sued the company, along with Facebook and YouTube, in July for alleged censorship.

Critics argued that Twitter took too long to address hate speech, harassment and other harmful activity on its platform, particularly during the 2020 campaign.

"If he's actually stepping away from Twitter this time, Dorsey leaves behind a mixed legacy," said Paul Barrett, deputy director of the NYU Stern Center for Business and Human Rights. "A platform that's useful and potent for quick communication but one that's been exploited by a range of bad actors, including former President Donald Trump, who did his best on Twitter to undermine democracy — until Dorsey's people finally had enough and shut him down."

Dorsey has faced several distractions as CEO, starting with the fact that he's also founder and CEO of the payments company Square. Some big investors have openly questioned whether he could effectively lead both companies.

While Twitter has high-profile users like

politicians and celebrities and is a favorite of journalists, its user base lags far behind old rivals like Facebook and YouTube and newer ones like TikTok. It has just over 200 million daily active users, a common industry metric.

Agrawal, meanwhile, is far less well-known than Dorsey. He previously worked at Microsoft, Yahoo and AT&T in research roles. At Twitter, he's worked on machine learning, revenue and consumer engineering and helping with audience growth. An immigrant from India, he studied at Stanford and the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay.

The early days of Twitter began with a tweet sent by Dorsey on March 21, 2006, that read "just setting up my twtr."

Dorsey became Twitter CEO in 2007, but was forced out the following year. He returned to the role in 2015. In his goodbye letter, Dorsey said he has "worked hard to ensure this company can break away from its founding and founders" and that to focus too much on whether companies are led by their founders is "severely limiting."

For online sales, Cyber Monday still tops the list

By Anne D'Innocenzo

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Consumers were expected to spend \$10.2 billion to \$11.3 billion Monday, making it once again the biggest online shopping day of the year, according to Adobe Digital Economy Index.

Still, spending on what's known as Cyber Monday could have dropped from last year's level of \$10.8 billion as Americans are spreading out their deals more in response to discounting in October by retailers, according to Adobe, which analyzes more than one trillion visits to U.S. retail sites.

Both Black Friday and Thanksgiving online shopping came in below Adobe's prediction.

On Black Friday, online sales reached \$8.9 billion, down from the \$9 billion in 2020, the second largest day of the year. On Thanksgiving, online sales reached \$5.1 billion, even from the year-ago period.

Adobe says it is the first time it has seen decreased spending on the big shopping days, which have seen healthy growth rates since Adobe first began reporting on e-commerce in 2012.

For the first time, discounts compared with a year ago were expected to be weaker on Cyber Monday, a big theme this season given how supply chain clogs are creating challenges for retailers in bringing merchandise to stores.

Online shopping remains huge, and sales are expected to rise 7% for the week ended Sunday after the massive 46% gain a year ago, when many shoppers stayed home, according to Mastercard SpendingPulse, which tracks shopping across all types of payments.

For the overall holiday season, online sales should increase 10% from a year ago, compared with a 33% increase last year, according to Adobe.



A Target employee delivers a curbside pickup order to a customer in September 2020 in the Bronx. The Biden administration has called on major companies to help fight the pandemic. Big chains want to get past the holiday staffing crunch first. AMR ALFIKY/THE NEW YORK TIMES

Retailers fighting mandates

Companies cite labor shortage as the main reason for resistance to vaccines

By Lauren Hirsch
and Sapna Maheshwari

The New York Times

The holiday shopping season has arrived, and retailers are ringing it in by doing everything from cutting prices to stocking showrooms to lure back customers who stayed at home last year. What the biggest of them are not doing is the one thing the White House and many public health experts have asked them to: mandate that their workers be vaccinated.

As other industries with workers in public-facing roles, like airlines and hospitals, have moved toward requiring vaccines, retailers have dug in their heels, citing concerns about a labor shortage. And a portion of one of the country's largest workforces will remain unvaccinated, just as shoppers are expected to flock to stores.

At the heart of the retailer's resistance is a worry about having enough people to work. In a tight labor market, retailers have been offering perks like higher wages

and better hours to prospective employees in hopes of having enough people to staff their stores and distribution centers. The National Retail Federation, the industry's largest trade group, has estimated that retailers will hire up to 665,000 seasonal workers this year. Macy's, for example, said it planned to hire 76,000 full- and part-time employees this season. The retailer has offered referral bonuses of up to \$500 for each friend or relative whom employees recruit to join it. Macy's asked corporate staff this fall to be vaccinated or test negative for COVID-19 to enter its offices. But store workers are a different story.

"We have a lot of stores that have a lot of openings, and any ruling that we have to mandate those colleagues be vaccinated prior to Christmas is just going to exacerbate our labor shortage going into a really critical period for us," Jeff Gennette, Macy's chief executive, said in an interview.

The industry showed how strongly it feels about the issue this month when the Biden administration directed companies with 100 or more workers to mandate vaccines or weekly tests by Jan. 4. Five days after that announcement, the National Retail Federation sued to stop the effort.

"We all agree with the premise that

vaccines are good and vaccines save lives," Stephanie Martz, chief administrative officer of the NRF, said in an interview Monday.

"But by the same token, you can't just say, 'OK, make it so.'"

The order is now held up in litigation, challenged by a number of lawsuits from a broad coalition of opponents, and could make its way to the Supreme Court. Court filings by the administration warn that blocking the rule would "likely cost dozens or even hundreds of lives per day."

Gennette, who sits on the board of the federation, said Macy's would "love to see" the order put in place in the first quarter, which typically begins in February for the industry. That echoes the federation, which has said it wants to move the deadline back several months.

Walmart declined to comment on the federation's lawsuit or its plans for vaccinations or testing. A spokeswoman for Target said the company had "started taking the necessary steps to meet the requirements of the new COVID-19 rules for large companies as soon as the details were announced."

Spokespeople for several retailers on the federation's board, including Kohl's, Dick's Sporting Goods and Saks, declined to comment for this article.

BUSINESS BRIEFING

Union gets new Amazon election

NEW YORK — A labor official is confirming a new union election for Amazon workers in Bessemer, Alabama, based on objections to the first vote.

The rare move was first announced on Monday by the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union, which spearheaded the union organizing movement. A National Labor Relations Board spokeswoman confirmed the decision.

The move is a major blow to Amazon, which had spent about a year campaigning for warehouse workers in Bessemer to reject the union, which they ultimately did by a wide margin. But even with a second election, labor experts say a union victory is a long shot. Previously, workers rejected the union on a 1,798-738 vote.

German workers to get paid more

BERLIN — About 3.5 million state-level employees and civil servants in Germany will receive a 2.8% raise and a tax-free COVID-19 bonus of \$1,470 next year.

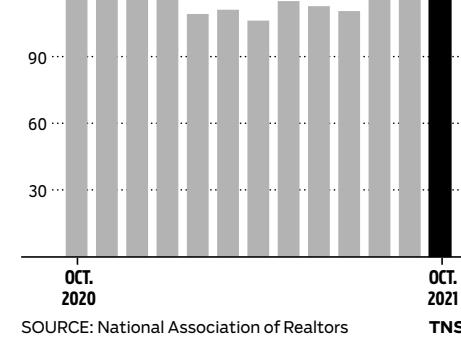
The agreement announced by the ver.di and dbb unions Monday also will see higher raises and hazard pay for workers in some medical and care professions and a tax-free bonus of \$735 for trainees and interns.

The unions had initially asked for a pay increase of 5%, citing the rising cost of living and additional strains their members faced working during the pandemic.

The deal between the unions and most of Germany's 16 states follows a series of strikes and is valid for two years. It applies to all states except Hesse, where a similar agreement was reached last month.

Pending home sales

The Pending Home Sales Index, a measure of housing contract activity, rose 7.5 percent to 125.2 in October 2021.



Nissan to invest in EV battery development

By Yuri Kageyama

Associated Press

TOKYO — Nissan said Monday it is investing \$17.6 billion over the next five years and developing a cheaper, more powerful battery to boost its electric vehicle lineup.

The Japanese automaker's chief executive, Makoto Uchida, said 15 new electric vehicles will be available by fiscal 2030. Nissan Motor Co. is aiming for a 50% "electrification" of the company's model lineup, under what Uchida called the "Nissan Ambition 2030" long-term plan. Electrified vehicles include hybrids and other kinds of environmentally friendly models other than just electric vehicles.

The effort is focused mainly on electric vehicles to cut emissions and meet various customers' needs, said Uchida. Nissan also will reduce carbon emissions at its factories, he added.

The company has been struggling to put the scandal of its former Chairman Carlos Ghosn behind it. Ghosn, who led Nissan for two decades, after he was sent to Japan by French alliance partner Renault, was arrested in Tokyo in 2018 on various financial misconduct charges.

Uchida made no mention of the scandal but referred to "past mistakes" he promised won't be repeated at Nissan.

Nissan's "electrification" rests on developing a new ASSB, or all solid state battery, that it categorized as "a breakthrough" for

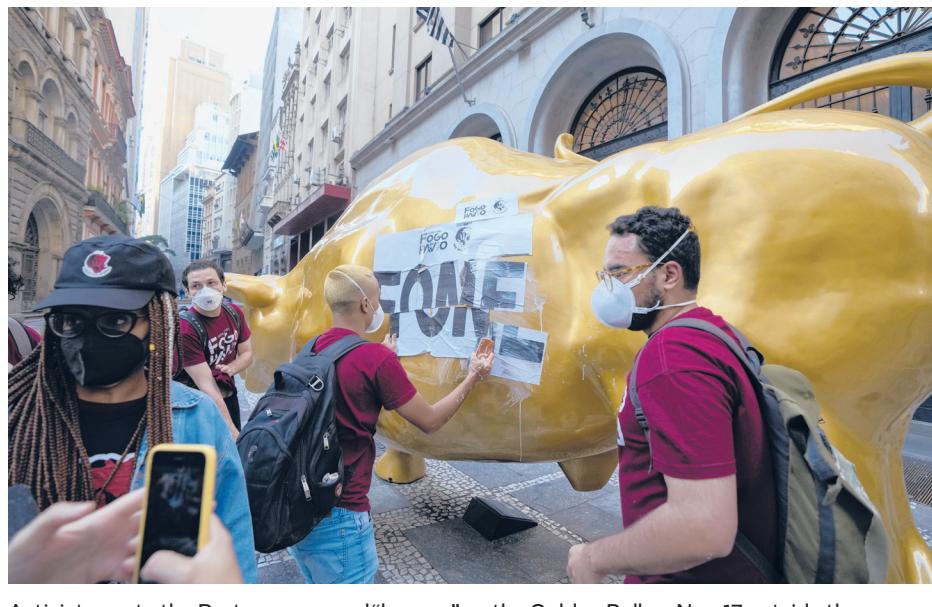
being cheaper and generating more power than batteries now in use.

That means electric powertrains can be more easily used in trucks, vans and other heavier vehicles because the batteries can be smaller. The ASSB will be in mass production by 2028, according to Nissan.

The costs of electric vehicles will also fall thanks to the battery innovation to levels comparable with regular gasoline cars, Uchida said.

All top automakers, including Nissan's Japanese rival Toyota Motor Corp., are working on electric vehicles, amid growing concern over climate change and sustainability.

Uchida said Nissan was hiring 3,000 engineers to strengthen its research.

BUSINESS

Activists paste the Portuguese word "hungry" on the Golden Bull on Nov. 17 outside the Brazilian B3 Stock Exchange in Sao Paulo, Brazil. ANDRE PENNER/AP

Brazilians find stock exchange bull unbearable, remove it

By Mauricio Savarese

Associated Press

SAO PAULO — Many Brazilians felt bearish about the new Wall Street-inspired bull sculpture outside the stock exchange, and didn't have to wait long for it to crash: The statue was removed a week after it was installed.

Sao Paulo's stock exchange had hoped to bestow the rundown city center with a flashy landmark. But its golden sheen was offset by nearby tents for the homeless and the daily line outside a major trade union of people searching for jobs — any job. By Nov. 23, it was gone.

Critics said the metal and fiberglass sculpture at the gates of the stock exchange in no way reflects Brazil's current economic crossroads nor near-term prospects, with poverty and unemployment high and inflation running in the double digits. Local media have shown poor Brazilians in several cities so desperate for food that they rummage through rejected meat scraps.

"It represents the strength and the resilience of the Brazilian people,"

Gilson Finkelsztain, the exchange's CEO, said at its Nov. 16 unveiling.

It was sponsored by the stock exchange and investor Paulo Spyer. Spyer, who owns a consultancy firm named "Vai Tourinho" ("Go Little Bull" in Portuguese), said he was honored to give "a gift to all Brazilians."

But celebration was swiftly met with protests. The next day, a dozen students posted stickers that read "HUNGER" on the bull's body. After their removal, the nonprofit group SP Invisible, which aids the poor, organized a barbecue beside the bull to feed homeless people. Both demonstrations reverberated widely on social media.

"This bull is suggesting we are experiencing some progress, but it is the exact opposite," Vinicius Lima, one of the nonprofit's organizers, told journalists. "Beef prices have skyrocketed. It costs double what it used to. Fewer and fewer Brazilians can afford it. That's why we came here."

Over the following weekend, the bull's sponsors attempted to co-opt demonstrations by asking visitors to bring food for donation. Still, the bull continued

getting roasted.

City Hall's urban planning body summoned the sculpture's sponsors and the artist who crafted it for a meeting. Its main objection with the golden beast was that sponsors didn't seek approval beforehand and it apparently violated a law limiting what can be displayed outdoors. Sao Paulo limits outdoor advertising.

"There is a law and it must be followed. Everyone has to be aware of the law before doing something," Viviane Rubio, an adviser to the urban planning body, said during an afternoon meeting Nov. 23. "You needed to let us know before you placed it there," she said.

The bull's creator, artist and architect Rafael Brancatelli, expressed contrition.

"I wasn't trying to be disrespectful or go over anyone's head. The lesson has been learned," he said. "In another initiative, we will certainly look for you first."

That night, under orders from Sao Paulo's stock exchange, a crane took away the bull, its head and horns wrapped in plastic.

MARKET RUNDOWN

Tuesday, November 30, 2021

DOW
35,135.94 +236.60

10-YR T-BOND
1.52% +.03

GOLD
\$1,782.30 -3.20



Domestic Indexes		
CLOSE	CHG.	YTD
DOW Indus.	35,135.94	+236.60
DOW Trans.	16,362.01	+146.36
DOW Util.	920.57	+13.62
NYSE Comp.	16,683.98	+59.11
Nasdaq Comp.	15,782.83	+291.18
S&P 500	4,655.27	+60.65
S&P 400	2,781.81	+2.40
Wilshire 5000	47,884.89	+507.24
Russell 2000	2,241.98	-3.96
		+13.53%

Stocks of Local Interest

STOCK (TICKER)	CLOSE	CHG.	%CHG.	YTD	STOCK (TICKER)	CLOSE	CHG.	%CHG.	YTD
AMC Entertainment A (AMC)	36.84	-.79	+1637.7		MetLife Inc (MET)	59.89	-.21	+27.6	
AT&T Inc (T)	23.89	-.33	-16.9		Microsoft Corp (MSFT)	336.63	+6.95	+51.3	
Adv Micro Dev (AMD)	161.91	+7.10	+7.6%		Moderna Inc (MRNA)	368.51	+38.88	+252.7	
American Airlines Grp (AAL)	17.74	-.01	+12.5		NRX Pharmaceuticals (NRXP)	8.10	+1.35	-66.8	
Amphenol Corp (APH)	82.93	+1.31	...		Norwegian Cruise Ln (NCLH)	20.22	+.16	-20.5	
Apple Inc (AAPL)	160.24	+3.43	+20.8		Novartis AG (NVS)	80.27	-.43	-15.0	
Avangrid Inc (AGR)	52.28	+.61	+15.0		Nvidia Corporation (NVDA)	333.76	+18.73	+155.7	
Bank of America (BAC)	45.59	-.17	+50.4		Otis Worldwide Corp (OTIS)	83.58	+.39	+23.7	
Barnes Group (B)	44.25	+.83	-12.7		Palantir Technol (PLTR)	21.07	+.04	-10.5	
Biofrontera Inc (BFRI)	7.10	-.80	+61.0		Palatin Tech (PTN)	.86	+.30	+26.5	
Booking Holdings (BKNG)	2182.01	+26.45	-2.0		Patishea Therapeutic (KTTA)	4.25	+.24	+19.4	
Brist Myr Sqb (BMY)	54.64	-1.89	-11.9		Peoples Utd Fncl (PBCT)	17.73	-.09	+37.1	
CVS Health Corp (CVS)	92.02	+.50	+34.7		Petros Pharmaceutical (PTPI)	4.00	+.19	-9.1	
Carnival Corp (CCL)	18.16	+.21	-16.2		Pfizer Inc (PFE)	52.40	-1.60	+42.4	
Carrier Global Corp (CARR)	55.98	+.60	+48.4		Pitney Bowes (PBI)	7.21	+.06	+17.0	
cbMD Inc (YCBD)	1.94	+.45	-34.2		Progenity Inc (PROG)	3.12	-.52	-41.2	
Charter Communic (CHTR)	668.19	-4.68	+1.0		Prudential Fncl (PRU)	105.03	-.07	+34.5	
Cigna Corp (CII)	199.61	-2.42	-4.1		Pub Svc Ent Gp (PEG)	64.25	+.61	+10.2	
Cisco Syst (CSCO)	55.76	+1.09	+24.6		Qualigen Therapeut (QLGN)	1.58	-.12	-47.5	
Citigroup (C)	65.04	-.46	+5.5		Raytheon Technolog (RTX)	82.94	-.06	+16.0	
Clover Hlth Inv (CLOV)	5.08	-.33	-68.1		Rogers Corp (ROG)	271.48	+1.13	+74.8	
Comcast Corp A (CMCSA)	51.53	+.43	-1.7		SOS Ltd (SOS)	1.30	+.02	-12.2	
DiDi Global Inc (DIDI)	7.81	-.07	-44.8		SS&C Technologies (SSNC)	78.48	-.27	+7.9	
Disney (DIS)	147.81	-.30	-18.4		Stanley Black & Decker (SWK)	184.15	+.14	+3.1	
EMCOR Group Inc (EME)	121.96	-.66	+33.3		Starwood Prop Trust (STWD)	25.70	+.03	+33.2	
Energy Transfer L.P. (ET)	8.61	-.23	+39.3		Sundial Growers Inc (SNLD)	.64	-.02	+34.0	
Ethan Allen (ETD)	22.73	-.61	+12.5		Terex Corp (TEX)	44.17	-.73	+26.6	
Eversource Energy (ES)	85.27	+.55	-1.4		Tutoria Corp (TNXP)	.48	-.03	-29.3	
Ford Motor (F)	19.67	-.08	+123.8		Travelers Cos (TRV)	152.40	-.12	+8.6	
FuelCell Energy (FCEL)	8.92	+.02	-20.1		Twitter Inc (TWTR)	45.78	-.12	-15.5	
Gen Dynamics (GD)	194.44	+1.07	+30.7		Uber Technologies (UBER)	39.70	-.82	-22.2	
Gen Electric (GE)	98.40	+.56	+14.2		United Rentals (URI)	357.02	-.51	+53.9	
Hartford Fn Sv (HIG)	68.61	-.64	+40.1		UnitedHealth Group (UNH)	452.00	+12.09	+28.9	
Honeywell Intl (HON)	207.66	-.55	-2.4		Virtus Invest (VRTS)	303.37	-.09	+39.8	
Horizon Tech Fin (HRZN)	16.91	+.03	+27.7		Voya Financial (VOYA)	62.25	+.14	+5.8	
iBio Inc (IBIO)	.85	+.19	-18.7		Webster Financial (WBS)	55.23	-.49	+31.0	
Infosys Ltd (INFY)	22.62	+.42	+33.5		Wells Fargo & Co (WFC)	49.16	+.73	+62.9	
Intel Corp (INTC)	50.00	+1.22	+.4		White Mtns Insur (WTM)	1031.10	-.69	+3.0	
Kaman (KAMN)	37.23	-1.06	-34.8		World Wrestling Ent (WWE)	50.80	-.57	+5.7	
Keycorp (KEY)	22.83	+.13	+39.1		XPO Logistics Inc (XPO)	76.24	+.27	+9.9	
Lincoln Natl Corp (LNC)	68.34	+.19	+35.8		Xerox Holdings Corp (XRX)	19.17	-.09	-17.3	
Lucid Group Inc (LCID)	55.06	+3.34	+105.2		Zynga Inc (ZNGA)	6.17	-.27	-37.5	
MGM Resorts Int'l (MGM)	41.13	-.72	+30.5						
Magellan Health Inc (MGLN)	94.41	-.24	+14.0						
Merck & Co (MRK)	74.89	-4.27	-8.4						

Thai chain's cannabis pizza: Trendy but won't get you high

By Chalida Ekvittayavechnukul
Associated Press

BANGKOK — One of Thailand's major fast food chains has been promoting its "Crazy Happy Pizza" this month, an under-the-radar product topped with a cannabis leaf. It's legal but won't get you high.

Veterans of the backpacker trail, familiar with the legendary pizza parlors of neighboring Cambodia's capital Phnom Penh that offer powerful marijuana as an optional condiment, might feel downright cheated.

"Of course, they cannot get high," Panusak Suen-satboon, general manager of The Pizza Company, said in an interview last week. "It's just a marketing campaign, and you can taste the cannabis and then if you have enough, you maybe get a bit sleepy."

The Crazy Happy Pizza is a mashup of toppings evoking the flavors of Thailand's famous Tom Yum Gai soup along with a deep-fried cannabis leaf on top. Cannabis is also infused into the cheese crust and there's chopped cannabis in the dipping sauce. A 9-inch pie costs 499 baht (about \$15). Customers preferring a do-it-yourself variety can choose their own toppings, with a 100 baht (\$3) surcharge for two or three cannabis leaves.

The cannabis plant has been used for two major purposes: as hemp for making rope and clothing, and as an intoxicating drug, known as pot, ganja and dagga. In recent years, a kind of middle-ground product has emerged: cannabidiol, or CBD, a chemical found in cannabis that can be processed into what is touted as a cure-all medicine. CBD can be separated from tetrahydrocannabinol — THC — the chemical in cannabis that has been available at all of The



A staff member holds a pizza with a cannabis leaf last week at a restaurant in Bangkok, Thailand. The Pizza Company has been promoting its "Crazy Happy Pizza." SAKCHAI LALIT/AP

Pizza Company's branches in Thailand, but sales have been lackluster, according to Panusak. It has faced several handicaps — it cannot legally be advertised or sold to anyone younger than 12.

"I don't think the market is ready for cannabis products yet. We knew this since the beginning," said Panusak. "We only wanted to be the first mover to launch something new and innovative in

OPINION

COURANT.COM/OPINION

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We can't trust Eversource

I read an op-ed by Eversource's president of transmission, Bill Quinlan, discussing the need for Connecticut's electrical infrastructure to be strengthened in the face of increasingly severe weather [courant.com, Oct. 24, "Extreme weather making it harder to keep lights on"]. Quinlan provides a list of measures that his company is taking. However, despite his title stressing the importance of investing in both clean energy and transmission infrastructure, Quinlan focuses almost exclusively on the latter, making only vague references to how better infrastructure would help clean energy generation. While it's technically true that a more robust electrical grid would benefit clean energy generation, it doesn't mean much. For example, steel poles that can "support higher capacity conductors" would be just as helpful for an expanding fossil-fuel energy system as clean energy.

I think that transitioning to entirely clean electrical generation is a necessity, but I don't see how that's strictly relevant to weather-proofing our electric grid. Additionally, this op-ed happened to be published within a few days of the approval of the settlement for Eversource's controversial handling of tropical storm Isaias. Ultimately, even though Quinlan does present some good ideas, I'm not sure how much I, or anyone, should be trusting Eversource.

Owen McIntosh, Bloomfield

Headline on UConn women's loss not nice

What a terrible headline for the UConn women's basketball loss to South Carolina [Sports, Page 1, Nov. 23, "No. 1 Gamecocks show Huskies who's top dog"]. With UConn being a Connecticut team it did not require bold print and could have just stated that UConn lost. It was only their fourth game of the season and South Carolina had played five games. I have no idea who set this up, but I was offended by the headline.

Susan Beth Aldrich,
West Hartford

Still no plan for UConn's football future

I was a supporter of UConn going Div. I in football in 2002 and supported building a stadium. But that was when we had the Big East to join. Randy Edsall's first tenure's success was largely due to the recruiting advantage of being in a major conference. When Big East football folded and UConn was not invited to a Power 5 conference, the AAC was the best option. Recruiting became harder. And now UConn is an independent, where recruiting is even harder, and it gains income by getting its butt kicked by Clemson.

The hiring of Jim Mora is as good as one could expect for a school in UConn's position. Of course, he was happy to go from not coaching to a job that pays \$1.5 million a year. Where is UConn football headed? How does Mora recruit talent? Athletic director David Benedict has not outlined a plan on how UConn can succeed as an independent. Without any plan, a return to a New England Division 1-AA team might be the only feasible option.

Alan Calandro, Burlington

Big thanks to Borges family for donation

The headline and article on the Borges family's gift of scholarship aid to Trinity College stands out in the sea of negative news that typically dominates these days [Page 1, Nov. 23, "Borges family gives \$10M to Trinity"]. Best wishes to the Borges family and all future recipients of this life-shaping scholarship gift.

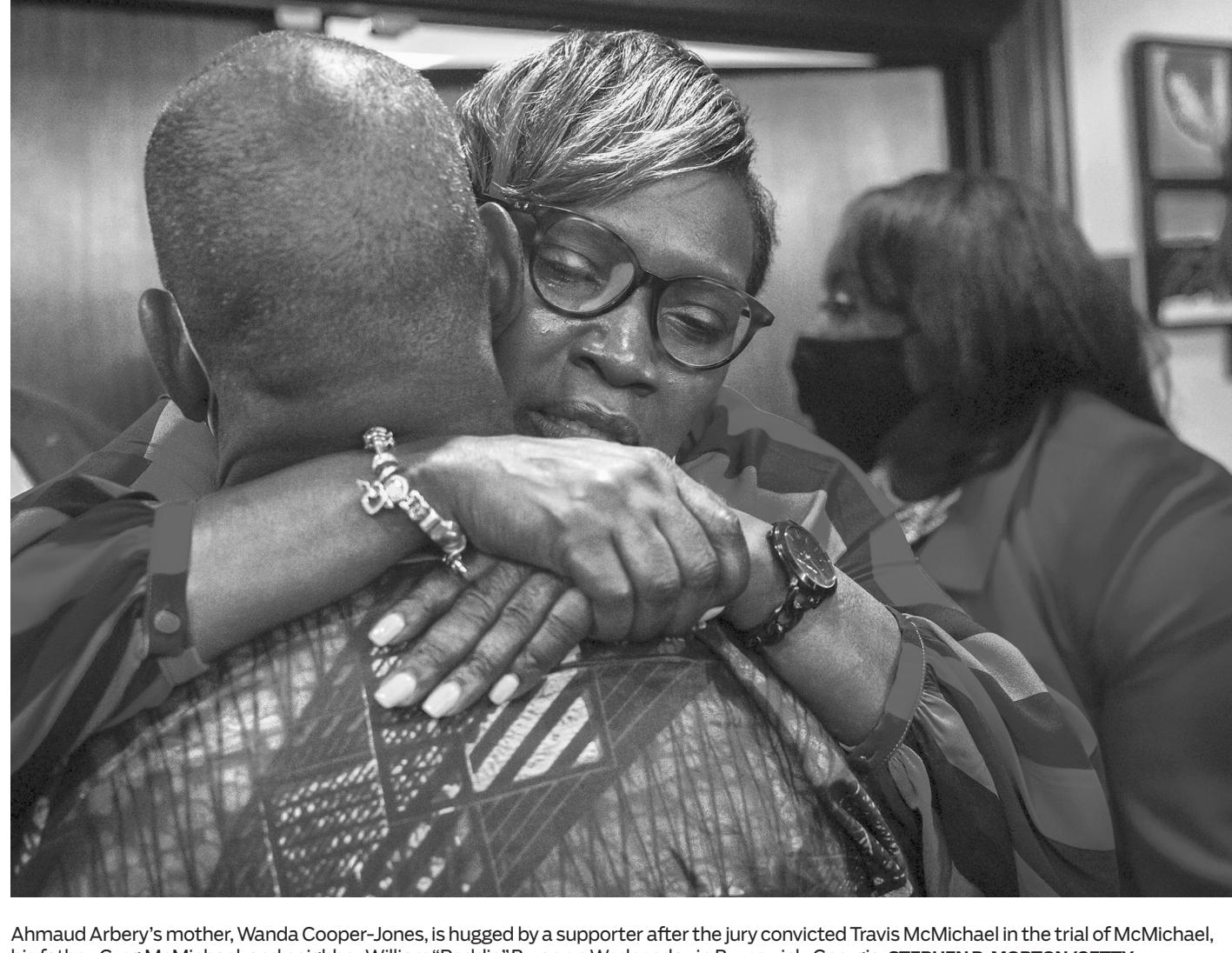
Mary O'Connor, Old Saybrook

Do away with absentee voting

In order to maintain the integrity of the voting process, it is important that we do away with the absentee ballot, except for people with physical injury, sickness or the inability to get a ride. Some would suggest that absentee ballots are perfect for senior citizens, but this is not the case. Seniors, like most voters, visit doctors and dentist offices, go to grocery stores and dine at restaurants.

The only way to get a correct count of ballots is by a personal visit to the voting booth with a valid ID. We have only to look at the 2020 election to see the havoc the absentee ballots cause. The way to get a true count is obtained by everyone voting on the same day. That would eliminate some of the problems we experienced in the last election.

John Mills, Bristol



Ahmaud Arbery's mother, Wanda Cooper-Jones, is hugged by a supporter after the jury convicted Travis McMichael in the trial of McMichael, his father, Greg McMichael, and neighbor William "Roddie" Bryan on Wednesday in Brunswick, Georgia. STEPHEN B. MORTON/GETTY

OP-ED

Legacy of racial injustice can't be answered in one verdict

By Erwin Chemerinsky
Los Angeles Times

In hearing the guilty verdicts of those who murdered Ahmaud Arbery, I felt a sense of relief that justice was done in a case where the evidence was so clear that the defendants were guilty. Yet that reaction, which I am sure was shared by many, reveals a great deal about our country's history in cases dealing with race — and about a frightening attitude toward vigilantism at this time.

Arbery, a 25-year-old Black man, was jogging in a primarily white neighborhood. Father and son Greg and Travis McMichael, who are white, grabbed guns and pursued Arbery in a pickup truck after spotting him running through the subdivision. They said that they were going to make a citizen's arrest of Arbery because they had seen him in a house that was under construction and there had been burglaries in the area.

Neither had seen Arbery, who was unarmed, commit any crime. No police officer could have arrested him because there was no probable cause that he had violated the law.

A neighbor, William "Roddie" Bryan, joined the chase. Bryan told police he used his truck to run Arbery into a ditch and cut off his route, while Greg McMichael told officers they had him "trapped like a rat." Bryan recorded the video of Travis McMichael opening fire as Arbery threw punches and tried to grab for McMichael's shotgun.

The jury found Travis McMichael, who fired the shots, guilty of malice murder and four counts of felony murder. The other defendant, Gregory McMichael

and Bryan, were convicted for felony murder. All three men still face federal hate crime charges.

The jury rightly rejected the defendants' claim of self-defense because they were the aggressors and Arbery was simply trying to save his own life. All three now face a maximum sentence of life without the possibility of parole.

The case received national attention in reflecting the infamous history of white vigilantes chasing fugitive slaves and white lynch mobs terrorizing and killing Black people suspected of crimes. Arbery's three killers claimed they wanted to make a citizen's arrest under a Georgia law, which has since been repealed.

The apprehension and uncertainty as to what the jury would do reflected the failure of the criminal justice system to work in so many cases involving race. As I worried about what the jury — which had 11 white jurors and 1 Black juror — would do, I thought of the trial of the four police officers who beat Rodney King.

In April 1992, a nearly all-white jury in Simi Valley acquitted the officers despite a videotape that showed a horrific beating. There have been so many cases where the evidence seemed overwhelming, but white defendants were not convicted of the crimes they committed against people of color. By contrast, the verdict for the men who murdered Arbery offered a sense that justice was done.

But it shouldn't be forgotten that in this case, justice could easily have been denied.

The district attorney who first oversaw the case, Jackie Johnson, did not bring criminal charges. Johnson has since been removed and indicted. Too often, prosecutors have been unwilling to prosecute

racially motivated crimes. Also, the result may well have been different without Bryan's video of the confrontation. Similarly, the murder conviction of Minneapolis Police Officer Derek Chauvin for killing George Floyd may not have happened without a video that left no doubt about Chauvin's actions.

Wednesday's verdict came down just five days after a jury acquitted Kyle Rittenhouse on all charges in a case in which he killed two people and wounded another.

In some ways, the cases are different — certainly race was central to the Arbery case, while in the Rittenhouse case the defendant and all the victims were white.

There is, though, a striking similarity in that both cases centered on private citizens who decided to take the law into their own hands. The three men who murdered Arbery said that they were going to arrest him for burglary. Rittenhouse, then 17, took his AR-15-style rifle to the streets of Kenosha, Wisconsin, to protect businesses during demonstrations after the police shooting of Jacob Blake, a Black man.

Both cases demonstrate the tremendous danger posed when people feel emboldened to carry guns and then justify their killings with claims of self-defense. That some, including former President Donald Trump, want to make a hero of Rittenhouse, is terrifying. The lesson of these cases should be clear: Vigilantism will always lead to tragedy and no American is safe on the street when that culture spreads.

Erwin Chemerinsky is dean of the UC Berkeley School of Law and a contributing writer to Opinion.

OP-ED

Using oil reserves is a gimmick; it won't provide long-term relief

Detroit News Editorial Board

The problem with using the nation's Strategic Petroleum Reserves to drive down fuel prices is it's a temporary solution that, absent a cohesive long-term energy strategy, won't change the cost trajectory.

President Joe Biden last Tuesday ordered the release of 50 million barrels from the 605 million-barrel oil reserve with the expressed goal of checking steadily rising gasoline and heating fuel prices. It's the first time an emergency release of the reserve has been used to control prices absent a disruption in oil production caused by natural disasters or foreign conflicts.

Releasing the reserves is a purely political move by Biden. While supplies are tight, there have been no shortages of gasoline or fuel oil.

But high prices at the pump and spiking home heating bills have helped drop Biden's approval rating to record lows.

The release comes after Russia and the OPEC oil-producing nations rebuffed the president's pleas to boost their produc-

tion to meet the demands of a recovering economy. China, North Korea and other nations are making simultaneous releases of their reserves.

The U.S. release amounts to 4 1/2 days of domestic oil production. Prices dropped on anticipation of the release, but any future relief is uncertain.

It can take months to move petroleum out of the reserve, which is contained in salt caves along the Gulf Coast.

And if OPEC decides to tighten its exports in response when it meets in the coming days, the actual effect may be higher prices.

Meanwhile, demand for petroleum is expected to continue to increase, while domestic oil production is not keeping pace.

Ramping up production at home is troublesome for Biden, since it runs contrary to his goal of weaning the nation off fossil fuels. He has halted construction of the Keystone XL pipeline that would have carried oil from Canada to the U.S., and has placed wide swaths of federal land and coastal waters off-limits for oil and gas explora-

tion and drilling.

Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm struggled to explain the contradiction when asked about it.

"What we want to do with today's action is to bridge the gap between the high prices today — try to reduce it as much as we can within our power by increasing the supply that we have access to as we move through — and the market then corrects itself and hopefully increases supply from the private sector," the former Michigan governor told reporters.

"Short term, we have to do everything in our power and that's why we have the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, but he also feels very strongly that long term, the strategy really is to go clean."

Consumers this fall are getting a taste of what going clean will look like. The more Biden restricts oil and gas production, the higher prices will go. And while he can temporarily shield Americans from the impact with gimmicks such as releasing the strategic reserves, the reality is that his overall approach to energy will continue to push up costs.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

Connecticut

Miami Beach Sewers and Association Improvements
Old Lyme, Connecticut

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Sealed bids for the construction of the Miami Beach Association Sewer and Association Improvements will be received by Miami Beach Association at Fuss & O'Neill, Inc. 146 Hartford Road, Manchester, CT 06040, not later than 1:00 PM local time on 1/12/2022, at which time the bids will be opened publicly and read aloud. Bids shall be submitted in a sealed envelope plainly marked to identify the bid. It is the sole responsibility of the bidder to ensure that the bid is in the hands of the proper authority prior to the bid opening time.

The Miami Beach Association Sewer and Association Improvements Project includes constructing 20,000 linear feet of gravity sewer mains and lateral services, 800 linear feet of horizontal directional drilling, 6,705 linear feet of storm drainage, restoration of unpaved areas to existing conditions or better, temporary trench repair and the reconstruction of Association roads. The project also consists of six bid alternates. They are public well protection measures, no well protection measures, helical piles and support system, permanent trench repair, mill and overlay, or cold reclaimed subbase & 4-inch HMA pavement.

Bids will be received for a single prime Contract. Bids shall be on a unit price basis as indicated in the Bid Form.

Copies of the Bidding Documents may be examined on Mondays through Fridays between the hours of 8:30AM and 4:00PM.

Electronic Copies of the Contract Documents may be obtained at Project Dog (www.projectdog.com). Log in and enter the Project Dog #846953 in the search box and select "Acquire Documents" for a free, downloadable bid set. Addenda, if issued, will be posted to the Projectdog website and shall be accompanied by e-mail notification to every individual or firm on record as having received the Bid Documents. It shall be the sole responsibility of the Contractor to ascertain the existence of any and all addenda. Hard copies of addenda will not be mailed or faxed. Neither Owner nor Engineer will be responsible for any partial or sets of Bidding Documents, including Addenda if any, obtained from sources other than the Issuing Office.

A non-mandatory pre-bid virtual conference will be held at 10 AM local time on 12/15/2021.

Please follow the link to participate in the virtual conference:
<https://fandocom.webex.com/meet/dbrise>

You can also dial in using your phone. (For supported devices, tap a one-touch number below to join instantly. United States: +1-415-655-0001, US Toll Meeting Number (Access Code): 145 360 1241)

NOTICE OF SALE - SUPERIOR COURT JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF MIDDLESEX AT MIDDLEBURY NOVEMBER 16, 2021, DOCKET NUMBER: CV21-60311595 GREEN ACRES ASSOCIATES, LLC v. CHRISTOPHER CERAMI, ADMINISTRATOR FOR THE ESTATE OF CHRISTOPHER BRILL, Plaintiff. Pursuant to an order of the Court dated November 16, 2021, a public sale of a 1979 Zimmer Mobil Manufactured Home, identification number ZCZ1897, owned by The Estate of Christopher Brill shall be held at Woods Edge Lane, WE#16, Westbrook, Connecticut on December 21, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. Any person, including a lien holder or the owner of the mobile manufactured home park, may bid at the sale. THE SALE WILL EXTINGUISH ALL PREVIOUS OWNERSHIP AND LIEN RIGHTS. PLAINTIFF BY: MICHAEL JACURCI, ITS ATTORNEY, 70 WALL STREET, MADISON, CT 06443, 203-245-2400, JURIS #19094 11/30/2021, 12/07/12/14/21 7087638

Request for Quotation #02-2126

The State of Connecticut Judicial Branch invites qualified vendors to submit quotations to provide safety equipment, accessories, and clothing for various departments within the Judicial Branch.

Quotations must be received by 11:30 A.M. on TUESDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2021. Late bids will not be accepted.

VENDORS CURRENTLY REGISTERED UNDER THE STATE'S SMALL BUSINESS SET-ASIDE PROGRAM ARE ENCOURAGED TO BID.

Bid package may be obtained from the Judicial Branch Purchasing Services web site below.

www.jud.ct.gov/external/news/busopp/

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11/30/2021 7094636

NOTICE OF SALE - SUPERIOR COURT JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF MIDDLESEX AT MIDDLEBURY NOVEMBER 16, 2021, DOCKET NUMBER: CV21-60311595 GREEN ACRES ASSOCIATES, LLC v. CHRISTOPHER CERAMI, ADMINISTRATOR FOR THE ESTATE OF CHRISTOPHER BRILL, Plaintiff. Pursuant to an order of the Court dated November 16, 2021, a public sale of a 1979 Zimmer Mobil Manufactured Home, identification number ZCZ1897, owned by The Estate of Christopher Brill shall be held at Woods Edge Lane, WE#16, Westbrook, Connecticut on December 21, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. Any person, including a lien holder or the owner of the mobile manufactured home park, may bid at the sale. THE SALE WILL EXTINGUISH ALL PREVIOUS OWNERSHIP AND LIEN RIGHTS. PLAINTIFF BY: MICHAEL JACURCI, ITS ATTORNEY, 70 WALL STREET, MADISON, CT 06443, 203-245-2400, JURIS #19094 11/30/2021, 12/07/12/14/21 7087638

LEGAL NOTICE - INVITATION TO BID
TOWN OF GLASTONBURY
CODE IMPROVEMENTS RIVERFRONT
BOATHOUSE
GL-2022-16

The Town of Glastonbury (the "Town") is requesting proposals from licensed, qualified general contractors for code improvements (the "Project") at the premises known as the Riverfront Boat House, located at 252 Welles Street, Glastonbury, CT 06033 (the "Premises"). Bids can be submitted at the following link: <https://app.negometrix.com/buyer/2832> under the BID title "GL-2022-16 - Code Improvements Riverfront Boathouse". Bidders will be required to create a profile before submitting their bid. Step-by-step instructions on how to register as a bidder are available at the following link: <https://help.negometrix.com/en/support/solutions/articles/9000177626/register-on-negometrix4>. Bids for the Project shall be submitted no later than 11:00 A.M. on DECEMBER 16, 2021, after which time the bids will be publicly opened. No late bids will be accepted.

The Project will include the following: Removal of existing ceiling and existing foam insulation, installation of a new sprinkler system, adjustments to existing boat storage racks, application of fire-resistant material on underside of floor deck and beams above, intumescent painting of interior columns, installation of new foam insulation, re-install existing ceiling and re-installation of modified boat storage racks and other miscellaneous code improvements. There is an Alternate to provide new acoustical ceiling grid and tiles to replace and match existing, in lieu of re-install of existing ceiling.

A non-mandatory pre-bid meeting will be held at the Riverfront Boat House, 252 Welles St., Glastonbury, CT 06033, on DECEMBER 02, 2021 at 3:00 PM. Bidders are strongly encouraged to attend. Due to the current pandemic attendees must comply with social distancing guidelines and wear a mask at all times during the meeting.

This Invitation to Bid, Instructions to Bidders, and other Bidding Documents (as defined in the Instruction to Bidders) are available for viewing and downloading on the State Contracting Portal at www.ds.state.ct.us, and the Town of Glastonbury website www.glastonbury.gov/at-the-cost.

Each Bid must be accompanied by a bid security in the form of a Bid Bond, certified in an amount not less than 10% of the base bid except as otherwise expressly provided in the instruction to Bidders. If the base bid amount of the successful bidder exceeds One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000), the successful bidder will be required to provide performance and labor and material payment bonds in the full amount of the agreed contract price.

Bidders are further advised that this project is subject to the prevailing wage requirements of Connecticut General Statutes Section 31.53.

The Town of Glastonbury is an Affirmative Action/EQUAL OPPORTUNITY Employer. Minority/Women's Business Enterprises are encouraged to bid.

The Town reserves the right to amend or withdraw this Invitation to Bid for any reason, to accept or reject any or all Bids, to waive any formalities or non-material deficiencies in any Bid, and to make such award (or make no award) of a contract in connection with this Invitation to Bid as all determined by the Town, in its discretion, to be in the best interest of the Town. A Bid may be rejected for irregularities of any kind, including without limitation, alteration, formation, addition not called for, conditional proposals, and incomplete Bids. A Bid may also be rejected if, in the opinion of the Town, the Bid does not meet the standard of quality established by the Bidding Documents. Any or all Bids may be rejected if there is any reason to believe that the collusion exists among two or more Bidders. The foregoing provisions are for illustrative purposes and shall in no way limit the right of the Town to reject any and all Bids, in whole or in part.

11/29/2021 7094652

NOTICE

U-Haul Moving and Storage Company of Columbia, will sell household and personal items, contained in the following storage rooms due to unpaid storage fees on Monday, December 6th, 2021..

Katherine diaz 1611

stacy bergeron 1601

JESSIE BUSULWA 1112

EDWARD SPAIN 1211

kathleen conner 1004

JESSI CLARK 1542

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xianna cummings 1510

ALBERTO GONZALEZ 1953

Rosalind Vega-kish 1134

Elizabeth Dunn 1330

kayla alvarez 1117

Kristina Conners 1855

Elizabeth Sanchez 1715

JESSICA Wilson 1962

Rosalind Vega-Kish 1419

Henry Correa 1520

Contents to be sold on the premises of 29 Route 66 East, Columbia, CT 06237 on Monday, December 6th, 2021 on StorageauCTIONS.com and close out at 9:00AM.

OBITUARIES BY TOWN**BERLIN**

Richard Hudlow III

BRISTOL

Nardito S. Asido

Enes Baraiolo

Mary Cutler

Carol Ann (Paradis) DeNigris*

Debra I. Duncan*

Robert Casey, Sr.

ELLINGTON

Charlotte Midford

James Bretz

Carol-Anne McMahon

ENFIELD

Joan Adams

EAST HARTFORD

Salvatore Locario

HARTFORD

Marine Dowdy

Bruce Guthrie

Gerald Moreault Sr.

Hon. Edward O'Connell

James Bretz

Thomas Andrews, Jr.

MANCHESTER

Joan Spellman

Salvatore Locario

NEW BRITAIN

Christine Corder

Joseph Gagnon

NEWINGTON

Joseph Gagnon

PORTLAND

Maureen Reilly

SOUTH WINDSOR

Carol-Anne McMahon

Charlotte Midford

John Woodcock, Jr.

SOUTHWASHINGTON

Charles E. Bass*

James M. Abell

TORRINGTON

Gerald Moreault Sr.

WETHERSFIELD

Hon. Edward O'Connell

WEST HARTFORD

Thomas Andrews, Jr.

Joseph Crozier

Bruce Guthrie

OTHER TOWN IN CT

Maureen Peterson

George Fitch

Roger Gessay

Maureen Peterson

OUT OF STATE

Roger Gessay

* Denotes name listing only.

Please note: not all death notices are in alphabetical order.

OBITUARIES**Bruno, Ann Marie**

Ann Marie Bruno, 63, formerly of West Hartford, died Sunday, November 28, 2021. Born in Hartford, the daughter of the late Dominic and Josephine Bruno, she was raised in West Hartford and worked for Heublein for many years. She is survived by her cousins. A graveside service will be Thursday at 11:00 a.m. at Fairview Cemetery, 200 Whitman Ave., West Hartford. Online expressions of sympathy may be made at www.molloypf.com.

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Woodcock, Jr., John J.

John J. (Jack) Woodcock, Jr., 93, of South Windsor, beloved husband of the late Helen C. Woodcock, passed away at home, November 27, 2021, surrounded by his loving family. Born in the Frog Hollow section of Hartford, Jack was the first son of the late John J. Woodcock, Sr., and Anna Marie (Gilligan) Woodcock. Jack's father was a decorated City of Hartford fireman, who saved

several lives while on duty. John Sr. was called "Hero of the Flames" and was one of the founders of the Hartford Firefighters Union.

Jack was raised in Hartford, attended local schools, Immaculate Conception, St. Augustine, Hartford High and St. Thomas Seminary in Bloomfield, where he seriously considered entering the priesthood. That calling was interrupted by World War II. Instead, Jack joined the Merchant Marines, training at the U.S. Maritime Academy in Sheepshead Bay, N.Y. His service included working on tankers, surrounded by naval fleets destined for such places as Murmansk, Russia.

Upon returning from the war, Jack met Helen on Hungerford St. in Hartford, where they both lived just eight houses apart. They were married December 15, 1945, at the Immaculate Conception Church on Park St., Hartford.

In 1953, Jack and Helen moved to South Windsor where they built their first home on Beelzebub Rd. In 1955, Jack and Helen founded Woodcock Refrigeration Company, Inc., now in its third generation of family ownership. Sixty-six years later, WRC continues with great success, built on a foundation of blood, sweat and tears invested by Jack and Helen. Jack was the catalyst; Helen was the glue guiding the business to the future.

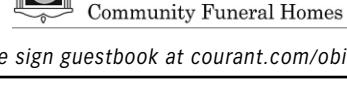
Jack was one of South Windsor's most recognized and respected citizens. He was elected to South Windsor's first Town Council in 1960 and he was a founding charter member of the South Windsor Rotary Club. He served on many town boards and commissions, as well as South Windsor charities, including the American Cancer Society and FISH. Jack was also a loyal supporter and major benefactor of St. Margaret Mary Church.

Jack and Helen treasured their family vacation home in Mount Snow, Vermont, which has been in the family since 1967, housing family gatherings spanning five generations.

Jack is survived by his children and their spouses, John J. Woodcock III and Carla, West Hartford, CT; Mark L. Woodcock, South Windsor, CT., Nancy W. DeMay and Douglas of Vernon, CT., and Matthew S. Woodcock and Karma of South Windsor, CT. Jack loved his grandchildren, Christian J. Woodcock, Lee Thomas, Julianne DeMay, Erin DeMay, Michael Woodcock, Kathryn Woodcock, Jack Woodcock and Karma Helen Woodcock; and his great grandchildren, Grey, Lily Woodcock and Noelle Woodcock. He is also survived by his brother, James Woodcock of Manchester and was predeceased by his sisters, Mary Woodcock and Clare Byrd.

The family would like to share their deepest gratitude for the loving care and compassion of his healthcare aides, Margaret Koonsman, Mavis Duah, Orlando Daron, and Bernard Ofori Adjei.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Thursday, December 2, 2021, 12 Noon, meeting directly at St. Margaret Mary Church, 80 Hayes Rd., South Windsor. Burial will follow at Wapping Cemetery in South Windsor. Friends and family may call at the Samson & Carmon Funeral Home, 419 Buckland Rd., South Windsor, on Wednesday, December 1, 2021, from 4-8 pm. Memorial contributions may be made to Tunnels to Towers, Staten Island, N.Y. For online condolences please visit www.carmofuneralhome.com



Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

OBITUARIES**Baraiolo, Enes Bonola**

Enes (Bonola) Baraiolo, 91, of Forestville was given her angel wings that carried her into the loving arms of our Lord in heaven on November 26, 2021. She was surrounded by her loving and devoted family.

Enes was born on February 5, 1930, in Hartford to Julio and Matilda (Bushnarda) Bonola. She met her husband Dominick at a wedding and soon realized

he was the love of her life. They were married shortly thereafter and were blessed with over 69 years of true happiness. Enes and Dominick raised two wonderful sons. She was not only a loving and faithful wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, but she was selfless, generous, and gave her whole heart to everyone. Her great love was her family and she was happiest when spending time with them. Her grandchildren, and her precious great-grandchildren, were her absolute pride and joy. She loved celebrating the holidays with her family, most especially Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. This is just one of the many ways that Enes created a lifetime of memories for her family to cherish in the coming years.

Enes retired from Metallics Inc. She was a member of St. Matthew Church, St. Matthew's Ladies Guild, and the Bristol Senior Center. After retirement, Enes and Dominick set off on many adventures.

Enes loved traveling, going on cruises, and going to the beach with her family. Most of all, she enjoyed spending time at the family's home in the Berkshires. She cherished time with her friends and never stopped short of making every day feel like a special day. Enes was always reading and sharing with her family the new things she learned. She loved to collect rocks and seashells from her travels so that she could hold onto those memories and keep them close to her. Enes lived for her family. She loved selflessly and endlessly. She never forgot birthdays or special events, and she made sure to always show her family how special they were. Her heart was pure and she considered everyone else before herself. She leaves them all with a lifetime of happy memories, which will comfort them as they remember, honor, and celebrate her life.

Enes is survived by her husband Dominick; her sons and daughter-in-laws, Bruce and Sharon, and John and Catherine; her grandchildren, Kristen, Dominick (Dina), Andrea (Brandon), and Mary; her great-grandchildren, Juliana, Maya, and Sofia; her brother Leo (Margaret) Bonola; her sister Elsie (Clifford) Gates; and several nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her parents, Julio and Matilda Bonola; her sister, Mary Bailey, and her brother-in-law, Edward Baraiolo.

She will be greatly missed by her beloved husband, her children and their families, friends and relatives, and her adorable cat Pumpkin.

The family would like to thank Bristol Hospital and Ingraham Manor for their compassion and care. They were comforted by the staff and how they treated Enes as if she was one of their own. No matter where Enes went, she left a mark on everyone's heart. She was an angel on earth and now rests in eternal peace.

Relatives and friends are invited to calling hours Wednesday, December 1, 2021 beginning at 9:30 a.m. at O'Brien Funeral Home, 24 Lincoln Ave., Forestville/Bristol. Her Mass of Christian Burial will follow at 11:00 a.m. at St. Matthew Church, 120 Church Ave., Forestville. Committal service and interment will follow at St. Joseph Cemetery, 522 Terryville Ave., Bristol.

Donations in Enes' honor can be made to St. Matthew Church in Forestville, CT or the American Heart Association. To leave an online message of condolence, share a memory or a photo, please visit Enes' tribute page at www.O'Brien-FuneralHome.com.



Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Casey Sr., Robert Dwyer

Robert Dwyer Casey, Sr., 84, a lifelong resident of Bristol, passed peacefully Tuesday evening, November 23, 2021 at Bristol Hospital. He was the beloved husband of Anita (Bossi) Casey.

Bob was born in Hartford on February 1, 1937 the son of the late George and Louise (Cashman) Casey. He served for 3 years in the US Army, mainly in El Paso, Texas. Bob graduated from Central Connecticut State University in 1962 and taught in the Bristol School System for 30+ years as an 8th grade language arts teacher at Bingham School, Hubbell School, Westwoods School and Memorial Boulevard Middle School before retiring.

Bob & Anita loved to travel in their motorhome, in which they visited Alaska twice. They also made several cross country trips: first in 1977 with their three children, again in 2006 with Bob's sister Norky and brother-in-law, Michael, and again in 2011 with 5 of their grandchildren. Together Bob & Anita accomplished one of his "bucket list" goals which was to visit all of the US National Parks. He was also the President of the Cape Codders Family Motor Coach Association from 2004 - 2006. Among his many other interests was skiing, and Bob shared that love with many of his students when he ran the ski club for years at both Westwoods and Memorial Boulevard schools. He and Anita skied extensively throughout Vermont, Maine, most of the major western US & Canadian ski resorts, as well as several European resorts. Bob was also an avid hunter and fisherman, and a lifetime member of the Bristol Fish & Game Club, serving on the Land Trust Committee.

After retiring, Bob & Anita spent 8 years as seasonal volunteers at The Saint Vincent National Wildlife Refuge in Apalachicola, FL. Bob was a handyman who loved to tinker and could take on any project, big or small. One of his many projects while serving at the wildlife Refuge was building a bat house designed to hold 50,000 bats for conservation.

Besides his wife, he leaves his son, Robert D. Casey, Jr. and his wife Jill, daughters Robin Wardle and her husband Simon, and Pamela Adams and her husband Joe; sisters Margaret Walz and Eleanor Mastrobattisto and her husband Michael; 7 grandchildren Kristin Hill, Kelli Connoni, Calvin, Katie and Owen Wardle, Joseph and Casey Adams; great grandchildren Aubrie and Ryan Hill; and several nieces and nephews.

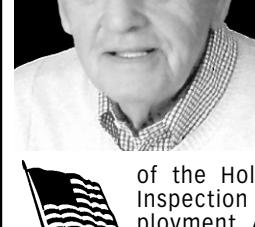
Papa, we hope you're skiing down a mountain while shooting a deer!

Relatives and friends are invited to his Mass of Christian Burial on Wednesday, December 1, 2021 beginning at 10:00 a.m. directly at St. Joseph Church, 33 Queen St., Bristol, 06010. CDC Guidelines are in effect and face masks are requested. A Celebration of Life will be held in the spring or summer, on a date to be announced by the family.

He was a lifelong member of St. Joseph Church, Bristol. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to St. Joseph Church in Robert's memory. O'Brien Funeral Home, 24 Lincoln Ave., Forestville is assisting the family with the arrangements. To leave an online message of condolence, share a memory or a photo, visit Robert's memorial tribute page at www.O'Brien-FuneralHome.com.



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Gagnon, Joseph Rolland

Joseph R. Gagnon, 89, of Newington, died peacefully on November 28, 2021, surrounded by his loving family. He was born and raised in Hartford, the son of the late Alcide and Leona Gagnon and has resided in Newington since 1966. Joe married the love of his life, the late Florence Gagnon in 1960 and was married for 55 years until her passing in 2015. He was a member of the Church

of the Holy Spirit and retired from MQS Inspection Service after many years of employment. A loving and devoted father and diziadzi, he leaves his daughter Rhonda O'Reilly and her husband Michael of Manchester, his two sons Mark Gagnon and his wife Blaire of Kingston, RI, and Scott Gagnon and his wife Sandra of Newington; Seven grandchildren, Laura O'Reilly and her husband Matthew Boley, Caitlin O'Reilly, Jesse Gagnon and her husband Vasya Vorotnikov, Kori Gagnon, Kyle, Megan and Joshua Gagnon. He also leaves his brother and sister-in-law Richard and Anita Gagnon of Windsor. Joe loved to spend time in his garden, tending his beautiful yard and was always there for his family. Relatives and friends are invited to call on Wednesday, December 1st, from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 pm at Duksa Family Funeral Homes at Newington Memorial, 20 Bonair Ave., Newington. His funeral service will begin on Thursday, December 2nd, at 9:00 a.m. at the funeral home followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at 10:00 a.m. at the Church of the Holy Spirit. He will be laid to rest in Sacred Heart Cemetery. Memorial donations can be made to the Lewy Body Dementia Association, 912 Killian Hill Road S.W., Lilburn, GA 30047 or on-line at www.lbd.org. To share a memory with his family, please visit us at www.duksa.net.



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CARMON

Community Funeral Homes

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Midford, Charlotte A. (Marks)

Charlotte A. (Marks) Midford, wife of the late Rodney W. Midford died peacefully on Friday, November 26, 2021. She was born on March 6, 1927. A private service for her family will be held. For online condolences please visit www.carmofuneralhome.com

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Guthrie, Bruce E.

Bruce E. Guthrie of West Hartford, CT, died Friday, November 26, 2021. He was 74 years old and resided at St. Mary Home in West Hartford. Bruce was born in Hartford, the eldest son of Dorothy S. Guthrie and Thomas F. Guthrie, Jr. He was predeceased by his parents, and his brothers, Alan B. and Richard Guthrie. Survivors include his daughter, Kellie Ann; brothers, Stephen B. Guthrie, Robert C. Guthrie, and Brian D. Guthrie; nephew, Casey Guthrie; nieces, Cheryl Lynn Berry and Erin Guthrie; and a grand-niece, Maisy Berry. In addition, the family is grateful for very dear friends, Pattilynn Conard and Dr. Rick Conard. Visitation will be Wednesday, December 1, from 9-9:30 a.m. at St. Mary Home, 2021 Albany Ave., West Hartford, followed at 10 a.m. by a Mass of Christian Burial at the Chapel at St. Mary

OBITUARIES

Deblois, Julianne (Toulouse)

Julienne (Toulouse) Deblois, 94, of East Hartford, loving wife of 46 years of the late Paul H. Deblois, peacefully entered into eternal life with her caring family by her side on Thursday, November 18, 2021 at her home. Born in St. George, province of Quebec, Canada on November 20, 1926, a daughter of the late Joseph and Marie Louise (Carrier) Toulouse, she had been a resident of East Hartford for over 53 years. A devout catholic, Julianne was a faithful communicant of Blessed Sacrament Church and St. Christopher Church, East Hartford. She enjoyed gardening, traveling, and visiting her relatives back in Canada. She was also a fantastic cook and baker, and a proud devoted homemaker, wife, mother, and grandmother, who cherished her time being together with family members.

Julienne is survived by a son, John A. Deblois and his wife, Cecile, of East Hartford; a daughter, Louise M. Deblois of Charlotte, NC; a daughter-in-law, Marianne Greissle and her husband, Peter, of East Hartford; six special grandchildren; five adored great-grandchildren; several nieces, nephews, and dear friends. In addition to her beloved husband and parents, she was predeceased by a son, Rene L. Deblois of East Hartford. Funeral service will be Friday, December 3, 2021 at 9 am from the D'Esopo East Hartford Memorial Chapel, 30 Carter Street, East Hartford with a Mass of Christian Burial celebrated at 10 am at Our Lady of Peace Church of St. Edmund Campion Parish, 370 May Road, East Hartford. Burial will follow at Silver Lane Cemetery, (Section G), East Hartford. Relatives and friends may call at the funeral home chapel on Thursday, December 2, 2021 from 4 - 6 pm. For on-line expressions of sympathy to the family, please visit www.desopoech.com.

Bretz, James F.

James (Jim) F. Bretz, 82, of Manchester, passed away on Wednesday, November 24, 2021 in his home. Born in Homewood, IL, he was the son of the late Charles and Alice (Puzell) Bretz. He was a United States Coast Guard veteran, General Manager of several minor league teams in Major League Baseball, and retired as a Regional Director for the American Cancer Society. He was also a softball coach at Manchester High School. He is survived by his children James A. Bretz and his girlfriend Kari Gracie of Granby, CT, Theodore Bretz of Ellington, CT, and Ashley McCall and her husband Mitchell of Bloomington, IN; his grandchildren Gina Bretz, Ryan, Katelyn and Dean McCall, and Matthew Pepe; his siblings and numerous nieces and nephews. Jim spent his life serving others and will forever be remembered for his selflessness in volunteering, coaching, his steadfast Catholic faith, and his devotion to family. Jim carried a signature smile and a hearty laugh with him all his days. He never met a stranger; every person in the world, to him, was just a friend he hadn't met yet. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Thursday December 2nd at 10 a.m. at St. Margaret-Mary Church - 80 Hayes Road South Windsor, CT. Family and friends may call at the John F. Tierney Funeral Home - 219 West Center St. Manchester on Wednesday Dec 1st from 4-7 p.m. In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to Camp Quality Kentuckiana (www.campqualityusa.org), a summer camp for children with cancer, where Jim served as a counselor for several years. For online condolences please visit www.tierneyfuneralhome.com.

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Fitch, George B.

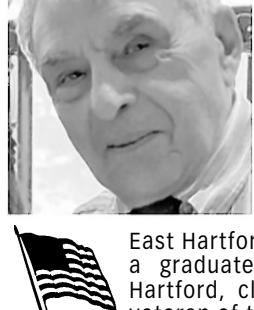
George B. Fitch, 73 of Coventry, CT and beloved husband of Janet (Kristoff) Fitch, passed away on 11/24/21 due to complications resulting from a stroke. He was born Oct. 3, 1948 to the late George and Dorothy (Woods) Fitch. George embraced a fierce work ethic, and mastered many trades including construction, masonry, and welding. He was also self-employed, and a businesses owner. George loved to travel to warm destinations, and spent time in the sun on his boat, or on his Harley. He is survived by daughter Tammy Lynn Fitch and her husband James Bartlett, along with grandchildren Taylor Anderson, Cory Chapman, Ashley Chapman, and great grandson, Mitchell. He is also survived by his son Ronnie Fitch and grandson Ryan, as well as his stepchildren Amy and Jonny Blazawski. Relatives and friends are welcome to join the family on Fri., Dec. 3, 2021 from 3-6 pm at the Coventry-Pietras Funeral Home, 2665 Boston Turnpike (Rt.44) in Coventry, CT. A brief memorial service will take place at 5:30pm. All are welcome to gather for a celebration of George's life after the service at 3j's Cafe, 124 Boston Tkpe, Bolton, CT. *In remembrance of George, and to honor his wishes, the family asks that visitors come to the funeral home wearing their favorite flannel shirt. Memorial Contributions may be made to the CT Humane Society, 701 Russell Road, Newington, CT 06111, or your local animal shelter. For online condolences or directions please visit: www.pietrasfuneralhome.com

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**D'Esopo**

Funeral Chapel

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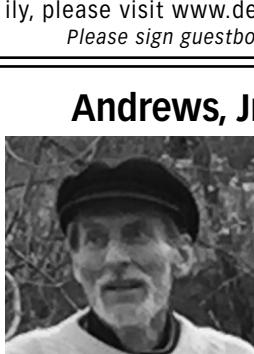
Locario, Salvatore J.

Salvatore J. "Sal" Locario, 84, of East Hartford, loving husband of 44 years of the late Catherine (Itczak) Locario, peacefully went to be with the Lord with his caring daughter by his side on Saturday, November 20, 2021 at Hartford Hospital. Born in Hartford on March 18, 1937, a son of the late Joseph A. and Angeline (Carbone) Locario, he had been a resident of

East Hartford for the past 60 years. Sal was a graduate of Bulkeley High School in Hartford, class of 1955 and was a proud veteran of the U.S. Army. Prior to his retirement, he was employed for many years as an Installation Technician by SNETCO. A talented craftsman, Sal liked creating and making various things for others to enjoy. He was a loyal fan of the New York Yankees and loved animals. Sal was proud of his Italian heritage, and was a devoted husband, father, and grandfather who cherished his time spent with all of them. Sal is survived by a daughter, Christine L. Brimley and her husband Daniel of Manchester; a son, Richard Locario and his wife MaryAnn of Ocoee, FL; five special grandchildren, Daniel Brimley and his wife Nikki of Enfield, Jacqueline Ennes and her husband Zach of Natick, MA, Nathan Locario and his wife Sarah of Mount Dora, FL, Noah Locario and his fiancée Madi Schrenker of Ocoee, FL, Sam Locario of Ocoee, FL; two adored great-grandchildren, Riley Brimley and Ella Brimley both of Enfield; several former co-workers and dear friends. Besides his beloved wife and parents, Sal was predeceased by a brother, Joseph Locario of Wethersfield.

Funeral service will be Friday (December 3, 2021) at 11am from the D'Esopo East Hartford Memorial Chapel, 30 Carter Street, East Hartford with a Mass of Christian Burial celebrated at 12 noon at Our Lady of Peace Church of St. Edmund Campion Parish, 370 May Road, East Hartford. Burial with military honors will follow at Veteran's Memorial Field-Silver Lane Cemetery, East Hartford. Sal's family will receive relatives and friends on Thursday (December 2, 2021) from 4 - 6 pm at the funeral home chapel. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions in Sal's name may be made to Protector of Animals, 144 Main Street, Unit O, East Hartford, CT 06118. For on-line expressions of sympathy to the family, please visit www.desopoech.com.

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Andrews, Jr., Thomas Lester

Thomas Lester Andrews Jr., 62, of Manchester, passed away on Monday, November 15, 2021, in the comfort of his home.

Tom was born on September 19, 1959, in Southington, to the late Anne (O'Reilly) and Thomas L. Andrews.

Tom, known as "Andy" to his family, grew up in Kent. He graduated from Housatonic Regional H.S. in 1978. He received his Associates Degree in General Studies from Manchester Community College in 1995.

Tom was a talented artist, writer, and silversmith. He enjoyed biking, playing chess, bowling and was an avid reader in philosophy ranging from Nietzsche to Buddhism.

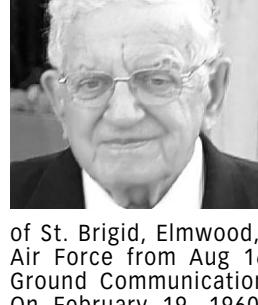
He was Superintendent for two properties for Genesis House, which became Community Health Resources, where he received an appreciation award for over 30 years of service. Many staff members and clients of CHR became part of his extended family, such as his good friends Paula and Marita.

Tom is survived by his 2 brothers, David and Jason; sister, Caitlin and many aunts, uncles, nieces, and nephews. He was predeceased by his older sister Jennifer Andrews.

A Celebration of Life will be held in Kent at a later date private to the family. The Cremation Society of CT in Windsor has been entrusted with the arrangements. Memorial donations in Tom's name may be made to the Community Health Resources, 587 Middle Tkpe. East, Manchester, CT 06040 or at www.chrhealth.org. For online condolences please visit www.cremationct.com

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Visit the obituary section on courant.com to share memories of loved ones.

Crozier, Joseph L.

Joseph Lawrence "Capet" Crozier, 91, of West Hartford, passed away suddenly at home with family on Thursday, (November 25, 2021). He was born in Grand Falls, New Brunswick, Canada, the son of the late James Crozier and Anna (Michaud) Fraser, and lived in West Hartford for 59 years. A communicant of the Church of St. Brigid, Elmwood, Ct. He served in the American Air Force from Aug 16, 1959 to Aug 15, 1961 as a Ground Communications and Equipment Repair Man. On February 19, 1960 he became a US citizen. He worked at Arrow Hart as a Quality Inspection Engineer. He also bartended at the Casio Bar in Frog Hollow. In his free time he was working on projects at home or for his friends. He was a cancer survivor that fought off cancer three times. He leaves his loving wife Yolande (Cote) Crozier of 61 years of marriage, three sons, Raymond and Nancy Crozier of Avon, CT, Frank Crozier of Meridian, CT, Steven and Brenda Crozier of West Hartford, CT. Also surviving his three sisters, Nora Crozier of Wethersfield, CT, Ethyl Edwards of Niceville, FL, and Patricia McAllister of Peterborough, Ontario. Grand children Andrew Crozier and fiancee Dee-An McCarthy of Manchester, Ct, Phillip Crozier of Unionville, CT, Megan Marie Soucy of West Hartford, CT. He was predeceased by his two brothers, Roland Crozier and Cecil Crozier, and sister Greta Crozier. Family and friends are invited to call on Friday (December 3, 2021) from 10 AM to 12 PM at the Rose Hill Funeral Home, 580 Elm St. Rocky Hill. A funeral service will follow at 12 Noon in the funeral home. Burial will be in Rose Hill Memorial Park, Rocky Hill. Memorial donations in his memory may be sent to the American Cancer Society in lieu of flowers. Please share online expressions of sympathy, memories, or photo tributes at www.rosehillfuneralhomes.com.

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Spellman, Joan H.

Joan H. Spellman, 98, of Manchester, beloved wife of the late John Spellman, passed away on Thursday, November 25, 2021, at Manchester Memorial Hospital. She was born in Castlemaine, Ireland, to the late Michael and Mary Griffin.

She leaves behind her children, Kevin Spellman and his wife Marcy of Hebron and their children Joseph and Caroline; Michael Spellman of Bolton, and David Spellman and his wife Ruth of Manchester. She also leaves behind her brother and sister-in law, Michael Griffin and Eileen Griffin of Glastonbury and many cousins, nieces, and nephews here in the United States and Ireland.

She was predeceased by six siblings, Catherine Griffin, Thomas Griffin, Jane Foley, John Griffin, Ellen O'Shea, and Jeremiah (Dermot) Griffin.

Joan was a graduate of the Hartford School of Cosmetology. She was an active member of the Manchester Senior Center and the Little Flower of Jesus Mother's Circle.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Friday, December 10th, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. at St. James Parish, 896 Main Street, Manchester, followed by a burial at St. James Cemetery. Donations in Joan's memory may be made to the charity of their choice. For online condolences, please visit www.tierneyfuneralhome.com.

JOHN F.
Tierney

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Cutler, Mary Cope

Mary (Cope) Cutler, 93, formerly of Bristol, passed peacefully Friday evening, November 26, 2021 at UConn Medical Center. She was the wife of Myron Cutler. Mary was born in Bristol on October 23, 1928 the daughter of the late John and Aloise (Fries) Cope. Mary had been a customer service representative for area insurance agencies. Mary liked to play golf, traveling, playing the piano and operating her HAM radio license KA1JCG. Besides her husband, Mary leaves her children, John Cutler and Deborah Cutler, a sister Susanna Melanson and three grandchildren, Sarah and Lucas J. Cutler and Mary McMahon. Mary will be cremated and a portion of her cremated remains will be sent to the surface of the moon and a portion to deep space beyond the earth/moon system. To leave an online message of condolence, share a memory or a photo, please visit Mary's tribute page at www.O'BrienFuneralHome.com.

O'Brien
FUNERAL HOME

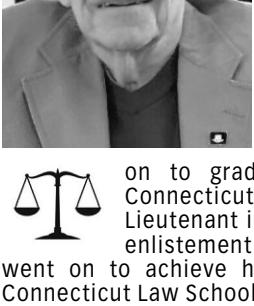
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McMahon, Carol-Anne (Stratton)

Carol-Anne (Stratton) McMahon, 52, of Ellington, formerly of South Windsor, loving wife, mother, daughter; sister, sister-in-law, aunt and friend went home to her final resting place surrounded by her loving family on Thursday, November 18, 2021. Carol-Anne was born on October 29, 1969 in Norwich, one of two children of William and Betty (Camp) Stratton of East Windsor. She was raised in Broad Brook, attended local schools and was a graduate of East Windsor High School, Class of 1988. She graduated from Manchester Community College having earned degrees in Accounting and Early Childhood Education. In 1999 Carol-Anne married her beloved husband Mark and together they had four beautiful daughters. Carol-Anne was employed for over 25 years with Walmart, most recently as a Supervisor in the Claims Department. She loved the beach, listening to the waves and sinking her feet in the warm sand, checking out tag sales and spending time with her children watching them grow. In addition to her parents, Carol-Anne is survived by her beloved husband of 22 years, Mark McMahon of Ellington, her four deeply loved and cherished daughters Ashley of Canterbury, twins; Emma and Isabelle, and Orissa all of Ellington and her brother Kevin Stratton of Bloomfield. Her mother-in-law Patricia (St.Amand) McMahon of Avon, her sister-in-law Patti and her husband Joe Amat, brother-in-law, Tom and his wife Cheryl McMahon, sister-in-law Sharon Radler and significant other, sister-in-law, Michelle and her husband Chad Cole, cousin in-law Steven McMahon and several aunts, uncles, cousins and all their families along with many nieces and nephews. Carol-Anne was predeceased by her father-in-law Thomas McMahon. Her family would like to thank the doctor's, nurses and the Hartford Hospital Transplant Team as well as the I.C.U. Team for their compassionate care for Carol-Anne and her family. Memorial calling hours for family and friends will be at the Ladd-Turkington & Carmon Funeral Home, 551 Talcottville Road in Vernon on Sunday, December 5, 2021 from 2-5 pm. A memorial service for family and close friends will be celebrated on Monday, December 6, 2021 at 11 am at the Broad Brook Congregational Church, 122 Main St. in Broad Brook. Masks will be required at the funeral home and in the church. Burial will be private. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to the Hartford Hospital Transplant Program, 85 Seymour St., Suite 321, Hartford, CT 06106 or to PawSafe Animal Rescue Inc., 110 Sandy Beach Road, Ellington, CT 06029. <https://pawsafe.org/donations/>. To leave an online condolence please visit www.carmonfuneralhome.com

CARMON
Community Funeral Homes

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O'Connell, Hon. Edward Y.

The Honorable Edward Y. O'Connell, 91, husband of the late Gertrude O'Connell, passed away November 19, 2021 at home surrounded by his loving caregivers Annie and Sheldon. He was born in Stafford Springs, son of the late Michael D. and Mary (Young) O'Connell. After graduating high school, Edward enlisted in the US Army as a Medic at age 17. He then went on to graduate from the University of Connecticut after which he re-enlisted as a Lieutenant in the US Air Force. After his re-enlistment with the Air Force, Edward went on to achieve his J.D. from the University of Connecticut Law School. He went on to become a Judge of the Superior Court of Connecticut, then moved on to become the Chief Justice of the Connecticut State Appellate Court.

Besides his wife, Edward was predeceased by his sister, Polly. He leaves his caregivers, Annie and Sheldon, who he considered to be like children.

Friends may call from 8:30 to 9:30 am at the Farley-Sullivan Funeral Home, 34 Beaver Road, Wethersfield. A Mass of Christian Burial celebrating Edward's life will take place at 10:00 am in Corpus Christi Church of Christ the King Parish, 601 Silas Deane Highway, Wethersfield, CT. Burial will follow in Village Cemetery, 1 Marsh Street, Wethersfield. To extend condolences please visit Farleysullivan.com.

Farley-Sullivan
Funeral Home

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Share memories, express condolences, and celebrate life in the obituary section on courant.com.

OBITUARIES

Reed, Deborah Ann (Namnoum)

Deborah Ann (Namnoum) Reed, 65, of West Hartford, CT, passed away on November 26th, 2021 surrounded by her loving sisters, brother, son and daughter-in-law, daughter, nephew, and her dog, Minnie.

"Debbie" was born August 20th, 1956 to Kenneth Namnoum and Helen (NeJame) Namnoum in Hartford, CT. Debbie graduated from Mount Saint Joseph's Academy with honors in 1974. She studied Sociology at Fairfield University, earning her Bachelor's Degree and graduating with honors in 1978. She later attained her Master's Degree in Early Childhood Education from St. Joseph College.

Debbie married in 1980 and had two children, Douglas and Denise. She dedicated her life to raising her two children. Later in life, Debbie pursued her passion of working with children and began her career as an educator.

Debbie first began teaching at The School for Young Children. She spent her professional career working with children of all ages and abilities. Debbie was a devoted teacher, mentor, tutor, and Godmother to many. "Miss Debbie" or "Mrs. Reed" was often recognized and approached by her students, both young and grown.

Debbie lived her life for her family. She was a devout Catholic and a loving mother. She was caring, generous, thoughtful, gracious, and kind without a second thought. She was a vivacious, intelligent, outgoing social butterfly, who made friends everywhere she went. Debbie embodied outward happiness and love. Her smile and energy lit up the room. She had unyielding ambition and an eagerness for learning that persisted throughout her entire life. She had a sharp wit, a sense of humor, and a courageous drive to protect the people she loved.

Debbie was a beloved sister, aunt, friend, and neighbor, but above all, her greatest role in life was as a mother and, later, grandmother. She fought cancer relentlessly for her Grandson, Luke, the light of her life, and for her future grandchildren. Her positivity and gratitude throughout hardship were truly remarkable. Debbie will be missed dearly by those that have loved her.

Debbie was predeceased by her parents: Helen and Kenneth Namnoum Sr. She is survived by her siblings: Mary Mahoney and husband John, Kenneth Namnoum Jr. and wife Anna, and Ann O'Keefe; her children: Douglas Reed and wife Bianca, and Denise Reed James and husband Dan; her cherished grandson: Luke James, and her beloved nieces and nephews.

Deborah's wake will be held at Molloy Funeral Home 906 Farmington Ave. West Hartford on Friday, December 3rd from 4:00 to 7:00 PM. Her funeral services will be held at St. Thomas the Apostle 872 Farmington Ave. West Hartford on Saturday, December 4th at 10:00 AM, the burial will follow at Fairview Cemetery in West Hartford. The family requests that masks be worn both at the wake and the mass. Online expressions of sympathy and directions can be made at www.molloyfuneralhome.com

In place of flowers, Debbie requested that donations be made to St. Jude's Children's Hospital.

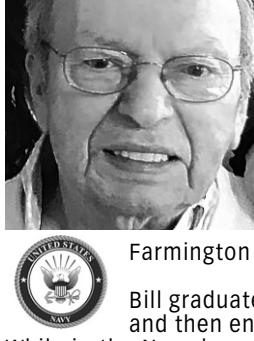
We will leave you with a Carole King lyric that carried significance to Debbie, from a song that played as she passed:

"There'll be good times again for me and you,
But we just can't stay together, don't you feel it, too
Still, I'm glad for what we had and how I once loved you"

Molloy Funeral Home

906 FARMINGTON AVENUE
WEST HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06119

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Smith, William (Bill) T.

William (Bill) Thomas Smith, 85, of Farmington, formerly of Middletown, passed peacefully at home with his beloved wife of 63 years, MaryAnn Smith (Laganà), by his side. Bill was born June 6, 1936 in Middletown and was the son of Edward C. Smith and Rose E. Smith (Fiducia). He grew up in Middletown and lived most of his life there until moving to Farmington to be closer to his children.

Bill graduated from Middletown High School and then enlisted in the United States Navy. While in the Navy he served on the USS McCaffery and the USS Yellowstone. He also served in the Naval Honor Guard in Washington, D.C. A highlight of his duty while in the Honor Guard was welcoming Queen Elizabeth when she visited then President Eisenhower. Upon discharge from the Navy he returned to Middletown and started his 47 year career as a Professional Mechanical Estimator for Marino Plumbing & Heating where he eventually served as President of the company for many years. He was a Trustee for the City Savings Bank and belonged to the Middletown Elks Club. Despite his accomplishments, there was nothing better to Bill than being a Grandpa. He was so proud of his grandsons and enjoyed going to all of their sporting events. Bill was an avid NY Yankees fan and also enjoyed drawing and oil painting. Through the years he created many beautiful paintings for family.

Besides his wife, MaryAnn, he leaves behind his daughter, KellyAnn Giamalis, and her husband, John, of Farmington. He was predeceased by his son Kevin William Smith, and he leaves his daughter-in-law, Justine Smith, of Maryland. His pride and joy were "his boys", his five grandsons who he loved very much. Matthew Giamalis and wife, Georgia, of NYC, Greg Giamalis of NYC, Michael Giamalis of Philadelphia, PA, Christopher Smith and his wife, Joanne, of Maryland, and Ryan Smith of Maryland. Bill also leaves his sister-in-law, Lorraine Carta (Laganà), and husband Sebastian (Babe) Carta, Jr. of South Carolina. He was predeceased by his brother Edward (Ned) C. Smith and his wife, Gloria Smith, of Florida. He also leaves many nieces and nephews.

A Mass of Christian Burial will take place at St. Sebastian's church on Washington St., in Middletown on Thursday, December 2nd at 10:00am. Burial will follow the mass at St. Sebastian's Cemetery. We would like to thank the nurses of Hartford Healthcare at Home, especially Gene, Wendy and Isabella, who were at Bill's home weekly and gave him wonderful care over the last few years. Further, we would like to thank the nurses of Hartford Hospice, including Kathleen, Kelly, Dina, and Maria. Please know that we are forever grateful for your kindness, great care and comfort you gave to Bill and our family. We also would like to give thanks to the EMTs of AMR Ambulance, Farmington Police Department and the Farmington Fire Department. Every time we needed help through the years you were all there. We will never forget that and are thankful we have such amazing caring people to help when he needed it.

In lieu of flowers, we ask that you donate to the St. Sebastian's Church Renovation Fund.

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Dempsey, Alexandra "Sandy"

Alexandra "Sandy" (Duff) Dempsey, 84, of Berlin, widow of Paul L. Dempsey, passed away Saturday (November 27, 2021) at Touchpoints of Farmington. Born in Jamaica Plains, MA, she was a former Newton, MA resident, moving to Berlin in 1967. Sandy was an Administrative Assistant for the Town of Berlin and later worked at Cedarcrest

Hospital in Newington for the State of CT, retiring in 2004. A member of St. Mark's Episcopal Church in New Britain, she was active with the church Altar Guild. Sandy was a steward and union secretary at AFSCME; was a member of the Berlin Senior Center; and was a frequent traveler.

Surviving are two sons, Jonathan "Jon" Dempsey and his wife Amy of Berlin; Jason Dempsey and his wife Chandanee of Rocky Hill; and a son-in-law, William Wallberg of Southington; and six granddaughters, Julia, Natalie and Lindsay Dempsey; Caroline and Emily Wallberg; and Abigail Rosenberger. Besides her husband Paul, she was predeceased by her daughter, Jennifer Wallberg.

Calling hours are Wednesday 4 to 7 PM at Carlson Funeral Home, 45 Franklin Square, New Britain. A private graveside service and burial will be in Maple Cemetery at the convenience of the family. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 90 Main Street, New Britain, CT 06051. Please share a memory or note of sympathy at www.carlson-funeralhome.com

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Peterson, Maureen P. (Cady)

Maureen P. (Cady) Peterson, 73, of Columbia, CT passed away on November 20, 2021. She was born in Norwich, CT, the daughter of the late Frank and Mae (Dragone) Paro. She was raised in Andover, CT and graduated from RHAM High School in 1966. Maureen worked as a CNA for many years. She was a very giving and caring person. She enjoyed gardening and working in her yard, going out to eat, talking, and going for car rides. Maureen enjoyed being around the people she loved. She was also a cat lover. She will always be the best mother who always endured so much and never gave up. Maureen will always be the most beautiful human being.

Maureen is survived by her son, Scott Cady; daughter, Catherine Cady; best friend, Ann Nichols; many of her "adopted" children whom were her children's friends; as well as her two beloved cats, Mickey and Minnie. She was predeceased by her first husband, Ronald Cady; and her best friend Antoinette "Toni" Caldero.

Maureen's family will receive relatives and friends on Friday, November 26, 2021 from 4:00pm to 6:00pm at Potter Funeral Home, 456 Jackson St. Willimantic. Her graveside service was held on Saturday, November 27, 2021 at 10:00am at St. Joseph Cemetery, Club Rd., Windham. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the ASPCA or the CT Humane Society. For an online memorial guestbook, please visit www.potterfuneralhome.com.

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

IN MEMORIAM

In Loving Memory Of DAVID R BRADLEY

01/19/1950-11/30/2019

Six months before his passing, David played a song for me on his Steinway B grand piano. It was the song from the movie "Love Story" -- sung by Andy Williams with music by Francis Lai and lyrics by Carl Sigman. These are the lyrics to "(Where Do I Begin) Love Story"

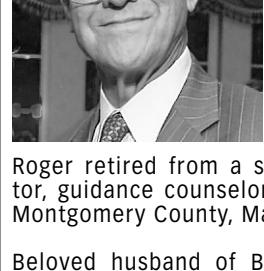
Where do I begin
To tell the story of how great a love can be
The sweet love story that is older than the sea
The simple truth about the love she brings to me
Where do I start

With her first hello
She gave new meaning to this empty world of mine
There'd never be another love, another time
She came into my life and made the living fine
She fills my heart

She fills my heart with very special things
With angels' songs, with wild imaginings
She fills my soul with so much love
That anywhere I go I'm never lonely
With her around, who could be lonely
I reach for her hand - it's always there

How long does it last
Can love be measured by the hours in a day
I have no answers now but this much I can say
I know I'll need her till the stars all burn away
And she'll be there

Dearest David - Thank you for playing this song for me.
Please know you are missed each and every day. xoxo -K

**Gessay, Roger Joseph**

Roger Joseph Gessay, 81, of Gaithersburg, Maryland, formerly of Rockville, CT, passed away on Saturday, November 27, 2021. Roger was born on January 19, 1940, in Rockville, Connecticut, to Joseph and Anna (Tansey) Gessay. He graduated from Rockville High School and went on to earn a Master's Degree from UConn.

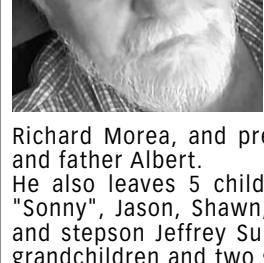
Roger retired from a successful career as an educator, guidance counselor and assistant principal in the Montgomery County, Maryland, school system.

Beloved husband of Barbara; loving father of Scott Gessay and his wife Mary and Susan Gessay Keller and her husband Jeff; cherished brother of Donald Gessay and the late Elizabeth (Betty) Gessay, Joanne Gessay Kane, and Anna Gessay Skidgel; devoted grandfather to Ryan and his wife Jacquelyn and Shawn Gessay; and great grandfather to Charlie Jack.

Visitation will be held on Thursday, December 2, 2021 from 5-7 pm in PUMPHREY FUNERAL HOME, 300 W. Montgomery Avenue, Rockville, MD and where a Memorial Service will take place on Friday, December 3, 2021 at 1:00 pm.

Gifts in Roger's memory to SOME (So Others Might Eat) at www.some.org would be appreciated. Full obituary and family guestbook at www.pumphreyfuneralhome.com

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Moreault Sr., Gerald C.

Gerald C. Moreault, Sr., of Torrington, passed away on November 24th at Charlotte Hungerford Hospital. He was born on January 7th, 1942, the son of Albert and Anita Moreault. He is survived by his wife of 32 years, Jane Hinckle, his 101-year-old mother, and three sisters: Theresa Squillacote, Anne Theriault, and Patti and Richard Moreau, and predeceased by a brother Phillip and father Albert.

He also leaves 5 children: Michelle Bove, Gerald, Jr. "Sonny", Jason, Shawn, Matthew, and their spouses, and stepson Jeffrey Summa. Also included are eleven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren, as well as, his beloved little dog Suki.

Jerry was sole proprietor of Horizon Financial Services for over 20 years. He always gave his utmost to his family and his many clients. He will be sadly missed. Services will be held on Friday, December 3rd from 5:00 - 7:00 P.M. at Munson-Lovetere Funeral Home, 235 Main St. North, Southbury, CT.

To leave an online condolence please visit www.munsonloveterefuneralhome.com

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CONNECTICUT

COURANT.COM/CONNECTICUT

Hartford mulling marijuana rules

Plan would encourage cannabis-related businesses in downtown and designated mixed-use districts

By Rebecca Lurye

Hartford Courant

HARTFORD — As several Connecticut towns move to ban marijuana sales, members of Hartford's planning and zoning commission have a different goal: encouraging people to open cannabis-related businesses in the city while keeping retail sales out of residential neighborhoods.

The commission's draft rules, which will dictate where marijuana producers and retailers can

operate starting late next year, offer the most flexibility downtown. The commission will revisit the rules at its next meeting.

Elsewhere in the city, a dispensary would be prohibited from operating within 1,500 feet of another pot shop, and within 500 feet of any school, community or recreation center, or house of worship.

During a public hearing last week, Hartford planning director Aimee Chambers asked the commission to consider eliminat-

ing those distance requirements in certain areas outside of the downtown, too.

"Between the distance requirements, it would make it much easier for retail locations to locate in downtown than anywhere else in the city," Chambers said. "In order to allow a diversification of locations for retailers, having additional zones may be the better option."

No one else spoke in favor or against recreational marijuana sales — or where they would be located — during the Nov. 23 public hearing.

The first licensed retailers will start selling recreational marijuana toward the end of 2022. The state law legalizing recreational mari-

juana allows for a 3% local tax on marijuana sales along with a state tax of more than 6%.

In Hartford, the planning and zoning commission proposes allowing retailers downtown, in Main Street districts — which are located along the city's major corridors — and in certain commercial-industrial areas, like the properties around the U-Haul Moving and Storage on Capitol Avenue.

Recreational retailers would also be allowed to open in certain mixed-use areas, including historic neighborhoods, which are mostly located along Asylum, Farmington and Wethersfield avenues and Washington Street.

Meanwhile, dispensaries that are only selling medical marijuana could also operate in the lower-density, mixed-use areas surrounding hospitals and other campus-like facilities. One such district covers the properties along Woodland Street between St. Francis Hospital and Farmington Avenue.

The commission did not propose any specific locations for cannabis-related businesses.

Hartford is already home to one medical marijuana dispensary, Curaleaf, which received special permission to open in the industrial North Meadows.

Turn to Cannabis, Page 2

Norwich plant to hire 100 workers

Glassmaker Solar Seal Architectural aspiring to be industry leader

By Kenneth R. Gosselin

Hartford Courant

A manufacturer of insulated glass panes for commercial buildings plans to hire 100 workers for a new, \$15 million plant in Norwich, with aspirations to become an industry leader.

Solar Seal Architectural is leasing 200,000-square feet of industrial space for the next 12-plus years, a deal that also includes local and state incentives, according to Jeff Heintz, senior vice president at Solar Seal.

Details of the state incentives were not immediately available.

Solar Seal Architectural has its roots in a Massachusetts company, Solar Seal LLC, that has been in a similar, glassmaking business for 60 years.

The difference between the two companies is that Solar Seal Architectural produces larger panes of glass — as big as 10 feet by 18 feet — and with more options for builders, Heintz said.

Initially, the plant is expected to hire 30, but Solar Seal will gradually increase that number to 100 as it adds shifts, Heintz said.

Heintz said it was attracted to the Norwich area because of the access to workers with the technical skills needed by the company. Solar Seal Architectural also saw potential in the area having two technical high schools and being close to the Navy shipyard in Groton.

In addition, an area company that made frames for commercial glass panels recently shutdown so that could be a source of expertise, Heintz said.

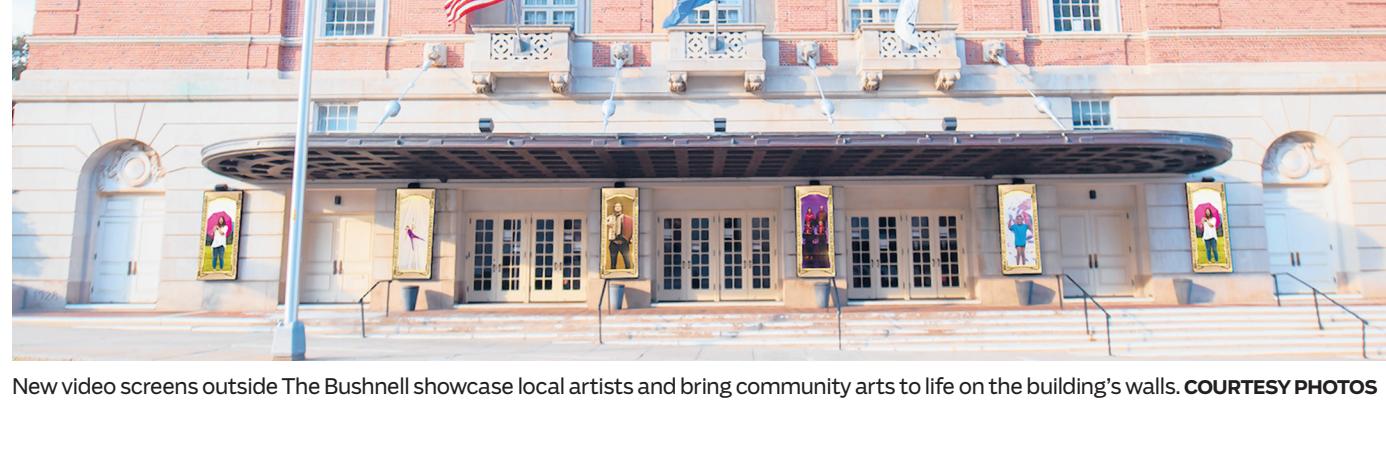
Heintz said the company aspires to be an industry leader using rigorous quality control that include 15 different automated inspection points during



'The walls are alive'

Digital screens outside The Bushnell provide video showcase for local arts

By Christopher Arnott | Hartford Courant



New video screens outside The Bushnell showcase local artists and bring community arts to life on the building's walls. COURTESY PHOTOS

For flood repairs, some relief

Hartford rolls out grant program after heavy summer rainstorms

By Kenneth R. Gosselin

Hartford Courant

HARTFORD — Amid an outcry by residents and small businesses, the city of Hartford rolled out a \$500,000 grant program to help repair damage caused by heavy rainstorms this summer that flooded streets and basements and backed up sewers.

"We know that it will not cover all the costs and all the losses for everybody that was hit," Hartford Mayor Luke Bronin said on the front steps of a home in the Blue Hills neighborhood that suffered flood damage. "But we do hope it will make a difference."

Bronin acknowledged the program is a stop-gap measure before the city is able to find longer-term measures to lessen flooding and tackle more major sewer and storm water projects.



Hartford Mayor Luke Bronin announces a \$500,000 grant program to help with flood repairs. Behind Bronin is Helen Bradshaw, whose basement was flooded this summer. KENNETH R. GOSSELIN/HARTFORD COURANT

Those projects include separating storm water and sewer lines that exist in many Hartford neighborhoods.

Throughout much of the Hartford, those systems are a century

old and not designed to handle the intensity of the rainstorms the city experienced in late August and early September, Bronin said.

Turn to Repairs, Page 2

Blockchain tech firm to move to Stamford

Promises 300 jobs with help from \$5M in state aid

By Stephen Singer

Hartford Courant

An investment firm in bitcoin and blockchain technology is moving to Stamford from New York City, helped by up to \$5 million in state economic development financing in exchange for creating 300 jobs, Gov. Ned Lamont announced Monday.

Founded in 2015, the privately held Digital Currency Group has invested in more than 200 blockchain companies and is the parent company of seven subsidiaries. One of its businesses, Grayscale Investments, is the world's largest digital currency asset manager with more than \$50 billion in assets under management. Grayscale will also relocate to Connecticut, as well as TradeBlock, another subsidiary that is an institutional trading platform.

"It quickly became clear that

Connecticut had everything we were looking for in a new headquarters," founder and Chief Executive Officer Barry Silbert said in a news release announcing the move.

"We are committed to making our new home in Stamford a hub for the next generation of fintech and blockchain entrepreneurs."

He cited the state's proximity to large metropolitan areas, workforce, "business-friendly environment" and office space.

Blockchain technology provides a record of transactions made in bitcoin or another cryptocurrency and maintained across a network of several computers linked in a network.

"Cryptocurrencies like bitcoin are the new frontier for financial investing and DCG is at the forefront of this burgeoning sector," said David Lehman,

Turn to Blockchain, Page 2

CONNECTICUT

Housing plan advances in Newington

But neighbors argue 225-unit complex will bring heavy traffic

By Don Stacom

Hartford Courant

Despite a setback this month, a group of Newington residents will continue working to block or amend the proposal for a 225-unit apartment building east of the Lowe's off the Berlin Turnpike.

The developer's plan would severely increase traffic on Culvert Street, neighbors argue. They also contend that constructing five four-story apartment buildings in a wooded field doesn't fit the nearby area.

The town granted a zone change for the project earlier this month, but neighbors still hope to derail A.R. Building Co. when it seeks a special zoning exception in December.

The developer, however, contends the upscale apartments will boost the town's tax base and provide needed housing. A.R. Building's proposed 26-acre site includes part of an abandoned

farm, and the property's owners endorse the project.

"This proposed housing will have high values and will likely increase property values," wrote attorney Sondra Sherlock White, who represents co-owner Jean Halter and the estate of the late Robert Halter, another co-owner.

"Since the pandemic, there has been a migration of working professionals from nearby metropolitan areas like New York and Boston, and this type of housing will retain and attract young working professionals and families to Newington," White wrote. "With the serious aging of the population in Connecticut, we need to retain and attract younger working families and Newington is ideally situated for those who live here."

Newington in the past year has received a wave of proposals for large-scale apartment complexes totaling more than 800 units. Most haven't hit opposition, but the A.R. Building plan led to a petition from more than 150 people trying to stop it.

"We are opposed because the plan is for five four-story buildings in what is now a wooded wetland

area," said David Hourigan, an organizer of the opposition. "Our neighborhood does not have any building more than two levels."

Homeowner Anthony Yoder agreed, telling commissioners at a Nov. 10 hearing that the project "would increase hazards to motorists, cyclists, and pedestrians and potentially alter the property values, changing what we have expected as reasonable property use."

Salem Drive resident Frank Zocco also called on commissioners to reject the company's request for a zone change.

"How can you possibly change a bucolic farm area into a high-density heavily trafficked project?" he asked. "I foresee this zone change leading to a burden to the hundreds of longtime neighboring homeowners who did not in their wildest imagination sign up for this."

But the commission voted 5-2 on Nov. 10 to grant the zone change, which largely takes that argument off the table.

Opponents are now concentrating on traffic issues. The project needs a special exception for its

plan to route traffic onto Culver Street. Hourigan argues that the developer's traffic study was incomplete because it measured daily volumes during an unusual time — the pandemic — and also measured traffic on Election Day, when schools were closed.

Hourigan believes the developer could reduce the impact on neighbors substantially if it routed traffic onto Costello Road, which has direct access to the Berlin Turnpike, instead of Culver Street. But A.R. Building has shown no sign that it intends to make such a change.

The company's request for special exception goes to the planning and zoning commission on Dec. 8. Hourigan said opponents will join the commission's virtual meeting, but acknowledged that some have lost heart.

"The commission held three hearings (on the zone change) and each one lasted for three hours. They were generous — they let us all speak, they gave us as much time as we wanted," he said. "But we feel pretty beaten down. They let us talk, but we feel like nobody listened."

Bushnell

from Page 1

The artists range from the West End Wizbangers to Storrs A Cappella, Orquesta La Yuqueña, the jam band Professors of Sweet Sweet Music (POSSM), Sonia Plumb Dance Company and others. A complete list of the current artists is at bushnell.org/locals.

"The general concept is that the walls are alive," said Ryan Glista, the Bushnell's digital projects manager, who conceived and leads the project. "The arts can emerge from anywhere. The architecture itself is living and breathing." He sees the videos as a necessary part of what an arts institution needs to do to stay relevant. "In the future, a performing arts center will have to live beyond the stage."

In the videos, the performers are artfully placed to make them stand out against The Bushnell walls.

Some acts are staged so that they align with the Bushnell architecture, especially in the wide indoor screen in the theater's front foyer where performers fit in and around details in the entranceway to the lobby.

"I love the building," said Glista, who has studied its contours carefully. "I don't think someone from the outside could have done this project."

Some performers jump from one screen to another. In a video that has yet to premiere, a cappella singer Chester Martin not only harmonizes among six different versions of himself, he tosses a snowball from one screen to another. "When he throws the snowball, you can hear the sound whip around the screens too," Glista said.

"Every performance is different in how we approach it. How can we record it differently? The artists have been excited to do something new. The amount of creativity The Bushnell allowed me to pursue with this project is unheard of," Glista said. "I talk to other theaters that have done video projects, and they say 'They let you do that!'"

Alex Page-Hatley, associate director of market engagement for The Bushnell, says the reaction to the videos, both from theatergoers and the theater's staff, has been "entirely positive. It's so important for the community to be seen as part of this space." That community outreach "has been floating around in our strategic plan for a while," Page-Hatley says, "but during COVID, the need became so apparent."

Both Glista and Page-Hatley comment on the thrill of "seeing artists see themselves" on the walls of the city's major performing arts center.

The 13 exterior screens, which cost tens of thousands of dollars, were purchased through a grant from the Mortensen Foundation. The indoor screen in the foyer has been up for a few years and has been previously used for work by local video artists.

Three different acts are screened on any given night. The Bushnell likes to gear the videos to the live performances that are happening inside the theater.

When a tour of "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer: The Musical" visited on Nov. 28, for example, the video acts included a holiday handbell ensemble and dancing, painting children by Hartford Kids! choreographed by Savana Jones. "We play to expectations, but also away from them," Glista said, noting that breakdancers were chosen to screen on the night of a Hartford Symphony Orchestra concert.

Ten different acts were filmed over the summer, and some have yet to make it onto the screens. There is still money in the production budget, so at least two more acts will be filmed, and next year's budget will allow for many more. "We keep having new ideas," Glista says.

The videos each last from three to five minutes. "We start with music," Glista says, "even when they aren't music-based [acts]. It's all very music based." A yet-to-premiere video of Connecticut muralists is structured by its soundtrack.

"The challenge is to keep it fresh," Glista said. "It also can be a very difficult thing to explain to the artists at the beginning. But once we're on the set and filming, with each screen marked out in the studio, it starts to make sense."

Christopher Arnott can be reached at carnott@courant.com.



Solar

from Page 1

production.

"If you're thinking that you are hanging a piece of glass that is more than 100 stories up, you don't want to get up there and find you have a big scratch on it," Heintz said. "We will deliver a product that is more or less defect free."

A major focus for the company is designing glass to cut energy costs.

"The products that we put in are not only aesthetically pleasing, but they will cut down on your heating and air conditioning costs significantly," Heintz said.

The manufacturing and distribu-

tion building being leased by Solar Seal at 40 Wisconsin Ave. is owned by an affiliate of The Grossman Cos. of Quincy, Mass.

Nicholas Morizio and Sean Kumnick of Colliers International, the commercial real estate services firm, represented both the landlord and the tenant.

Kumnick said demand for industrial space continues to remain strong throughout Connecticut.

"The demand for manufacturing and warehouse and distribution uses has driven up market rents 15-20 percent across Connecticut," Kumnick said.

Kenneth R. Gosselin can be reached at kgosselin@courant.com.

This building on Ocean Parkway in Brooklyn, New York, has windows made by Solar Seal of South Easton, Massachusetts. A separate, offshoot company, Solar Seal Architectural, is located in Norwich and will make larger glass panes with more options for commercial builders. COURTESY

Blockchain

from Page 1

commissioner of the state Department of Economic and Community Development.

DCG has signed a lease in the Shippian Landing complex that's being renovated. The company expects to occupy its new headquarters late next year. The new Connecticut headquarters will occupy more than 90,000 square feet.

The company decided on Connecticut after evaluating potential sites in New Jersey and New York.

"Attracting new investment and job creation opportunities to Connecticut is a top priority for our administration and today's announcement is another indication that we are seeing results," Lamont said.

DECD is supporting the project

with a grant in arrears of up to \$5 million contingent on the company creating and keeping more than 300 full-time jobs. DCG has pledged to create the jobs within five years.

On Nov. 1, DCG announced new investments that pushed its valuation to \$10 billion. On Nov. 18, the company also announced the completion of a debt capital raise that provided credit of up to \$600 million.

Lamont has announced the moves of four companies to Fairfield County since last summer: ITT Inc., a manufacturer, is moving its headquarters to Stamford from White Plains, N.Y.; iCapital Network, a financial technology company, is headed to Greenwich from New York; and tobacco giant Philip Morris International is relocating its headquarters to Stamford from New York.

Stephen Singer can be reached at ssinger@courant.com.

Repairs

from Page 1

"These issues are not getting better," Bronin said. "They are getting worse as climate change makes severe weather events more common. This year we experienced what used to be classified as a 200-year storm, a 25-year storm and a nearly 100-year storm in the course of about three weeks."

In the aftermath of those storms, flooding was a hot topic at neighborhood meetings. Some residents saying back-ups were so bad they saw human feces floating in their basements.

While flooding was not limited to the city's North End, some of the worst happened in the Blue Hills and Upper Albany neighborhoods.

Helen Bradshaw, who has lived for 42 years in the Granby Street ranch where Monday's announcement was made, said she wonders whether her home is going to stay dry every time there is a heavy downpour.

Bradshaw said she has lived through years of flooding, and one time a couple of years ago it was so bad that water nearly touched the ceiling of her basement.

This summer, Bradshaw said it wasn't as bad, but she still got 8 to 10 inches in her basement.

"It just came gushing in through the toilet, the sink, up to the bottom step of the basement and the street was all flooded out," Bradshaw said. "It was a mess down there."

Bradshaw said it took two days to clean-up. She said she intends to apply for the grant program.

The program, which uses city dollars, provides grants of up to \$7,500 to owner-occupants of 1-3 unit residential buildings

and small business owners. The program only applies to repairs in the wake of storms Fred, Henri and Ida.

To receive the grant, household income should not exceed 120% of the area median income where the property is located. That ranges from \$87,612 for a one-person household to \$145,186 for a six-person household, according to figures released by the city Monday.

The grants cannot be used for repairs covered by insurance or alternatives offered by the Metropolitan District Commission, the regional water and sewer authority.

Some eligible repairs include sump pumps, replacement of lines from property to main line in the street, window wells, basement cleaning, new boilers and hot water heaters, among other things.

Sen. Doug McCrory, D-Hartford, who was among local and state officials at Monday's news conference, said the flooding came on top of devastation by COVID-19.

"In the midst of so many people losing their lives and finding employment difficulty, when our constituents have to face another tragedy, the fact [is] that this flooding took place," McCrory said.

The city urged homeowners and small businesses to apply quickly.

Homeowners can contact Shawana Bowens in the city's housing division at Shawana.Bowens@hartford.gov or by phone at 860 757-9030 for information or to request an application.

Small business owners should contact Kylah Hudson-Samuels at Kylah.Hudson@hartford.gov or by phone at 860 757-9526.

Cannabis

from Page 1

New dispensaries would not be allowed to open in the North or South Meadows under the proposed changes to Hartford's zoning regulations.

All dispensaries would be allowed to be open between 8 a.m. and 10 p.m. Monday through Friday and 10 a.m. and 10 p.m. Sunday.

The planning and zoning commission plans to restrict marijuana cultivators and manufacturers to industrial and commercial-industrial districts, though a micro-cultivator — someone with 2,000-10,000 square feet of grow space — would have more flexibility; they could operate in a multiuse district or in areas zoned as Main

Street 3.

These areas, typically in car-oriented commercial centers, are limited in number. The Stop & Shop on New Park Avenue is located in one. So is the city-owned empty lot at Albany Avenue and Woodland Street, an intersection shared with the Artists Collective and a branch of the Hartford Public Library.

Several communities, including Avon, Enfield, Greenwich, Newtown and Prospect, have already prohibited recreational marijuana businesses in their town limits.

Others, like New Britain and Bristol, are planning to adapt their existing rules for medical marijuana dispensaries.

Rebecca Lurye can be reached at rlurye@courant.com.

CONNECTICUT

Weatherization program gets a boost

As heating costs rise, WAP sees funding infusion in infrastructure bill to help residents save money

By Susan Dunne
Hartford Courant

As the cold weather moves in and Connecticut braces for soaring home heating costs, a program to help low-income residents save money is getting a huge infusion this year.

The recently passed federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill includes \$3.5 billion earmarked for the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP), a federal program administered by the state Department of Energy & Environmental Protection. This is about 10 times what was allocated last year. The office of U.S. Sen. Richard Blumenthal said that funding allocations per state are undetermined, but "states should see significant increases in their allocations" over 2020.

At a news conference Monday, at the Waterbury home of a woman whose home received upgrades, Blumenthal said "Fuel, electricity, all kinds of costs of heating homes are threatening to go through the roof. In fact, energy is going through the roof and out the windows and through the doors because of inadequate weatherization."

What is WAP, what does it do

and who is eligible?

What is WAP?

The Weatherization Assistance Program is a program that helps low-income residents, who either own or rent, to winterize their homes free of charge to save money on energy costs.

What are some things that might be done?

The program offers tune-ups, repairs or upgrades to elements of the homes' heating systems such as insulation, storm windows and water heaters; repair of possible leaks through doors, windows or ceiling; replacement of energy-in-efficient showerheads, faucet aerators and lighting; and repairs to energy-related apparatus to safeguard the health and safety of the residents. The program also might determine if households qualify for an energy-efficient refrigerator replacement.

How do you apply for funding?

There are nine Community

Action Agencies in Connecticut. Two of them — Community Renewal Team in Hartford (860-560-5600) and New Opportunities Inc. in Waterbury (203-575-9799) — will administer the allocation of the funds. Those who want to apply can reach out to those two agencies or can inquire at their local Community Action Agency. The other seven in the state are Community Action Agency of Western CT, HRA of New Britain, CAA of New Haven, Access Community Action Agency, TEAM, Thames Valley Council for Community Action and Alliance for Community Empowerment. To find contact info and which agency serves your town, visit cafca.org/agencies.

Who qualifies to get it?

People eligible for the Connecticut Energy Assistance Program probably are eligible for WAP. Eligible households must earn 60% or less of State Median Income, which is currently \$78,444 per household. Applicants must not have liquid assets exceeding \$10,000 for homeowners or \$7,000 for non-owners. Priority is given to the elderly, persons with disabilities, families with children younger than six, high energy users (annual heating

cost exceeding \$2,500) and households with eight or more residents.

What if I live in a multi-unit building?

Duplexes and four-unit buildings are eligible if at least half of the residents are eligible. Complexes with more than four units must have two-thirds of eligible occupants to be considered eligible.

What might make a home ineligible?

If the home has gotten WAP upgrades, or weatherization from LIHEAP, HUD or USDA, in the last 15 years, the home is not eligible. If the home is for sale, is going on the market soon, is in foreclosure or is in mortgage mediation, the home is not eligible. If the home needs extensive structural rehabilitation, the home may still be eligible, but the weatherization won't be done until after the repairs are finished.

If I am eligible, what happens next?

Homes determined to be eligible will be visited for an energy audit. The auditor will ask to see the home's energy bills and will

inspect the house to determine what needs to be done to the home. Ownership of the home and/or proof of tenancy must be verified, to authorize all weatherization work.

What won't the program do?

The program will not replace a roof or do any major structural improvements or nonenergy-related repairs to the home.

How will this affect my energy bills?

According to Blumenthal's office, "Families who receive these weatherization benefits see their annual energy bills reduced by an average of about \$437, depending on fuel prices."

Is there a deadline to sign up?

WAP applications are accepted throughout the year, Julie Ackerman, assistant vice president for planning of the Community Renewal Team, said. There is no deadline to apply.

Susan Dunne can be reached at sdunne@courant.com.

Ships asked to make way for whales

As rare species heads south for winter, NY area under protection

By Seamus McAvoy
Hartford Courant

With migration season beginning for a critically endangered species of whale, the federal government is establishing a voluntary protected zone southeast of New York City to protect the animals from sea vessels as they head for warmer waters.

The North Atlantic right whale, which has been listed as endangered under the Endangered Species Act since 1970, is considered one of the rarest marine mammals in the world. Scientists estimate that there may be fewer than 400 of them left.

Right whales can live at least 70 years and possibly as long as 100. Since 2017, though, the species has been experiencing what NOAA calls an "Unusual Mortality Event." Thirty-two whales were reported dead and another 13 seriously injured in the last three years, meaning about 10% of the remaining population was affected.

Human-driven causes of death have caused the average lifespan to plummet, scientists say, to about 45 for females and 65 for males. Female right whales are delivering offspring about half as frequently as in previous years, posing a problem for population recovery.

Each winter, the whales head south from Canada and New England to the warm, shallow waters of South Carolina, Georgia and Florida's east coast. This is the only place the whales are known to birth and feed their young, scientists say.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said the protected zone will be south of Long Island and east of New Jersey, and remain in place until Sunday. NOAA said mariners are asked to avoid the area altogether or move through it slowly.

Right whales are especially vulnerable to collisions with ships because they swim and rest just beneath the water's surface.

Fishing gear poses another major threat to the whales, 85% of which have been entangled with fishing equipment at least once. According to NOAA, scientists believe stress from chronic entanglement could be one reason why female right whales are having calves less frequently.

Calving season runs between mid-November and mid-April.

The whales were detected off the coast of New Jersey on Nov. 20 by an acoustic array, NOAA said. Protective zones are also established off the coasts of Maryland and Massachusetts.

This story contains an AP report.

Seamus McAvoy can be reached at smcavoy@courant.com.



Crumbl, a nationwide chain of cookie stores, is opening its first location in Connecticut. From left are general manager Derek Sweetapple, co-owner Troy van Belle and co-owner Tucker Bartone. **SUSAN DUNNE PHOTOS/HARTFORD COURANT**

CRUMBL COMES TO CONNECTICUT

Nationwide cookie chain bringing its fun flavors to new location in Manchester

By Susan Dunne
Hartford Courant

MANCHESTER — Crumbl, a nationwide chain of cookie stores that changes the flavor offerings every week, is opening its first location in Connecticut — in Manchester.

Franchise owners Troy van Belle of Southington and Tucker Bartone of Hamden say they aim to open Friday.

The pair also plan to open Crumbls next year in Westfarms Mall and in Milford. Corporate spokeswoman Anna Tibbitts said locations also are planned in North Haven and Danbury in 2022.

Crumbl was founded in 2017 in Logan, Utah, with an unusual business model: Six cookie flavors are offered each week. Two — milk chocolate chip and sugar — are sold every week. The other four change weekly. The week's flavors are announced on the Crumbl app Sunday. Starting Monday, for that week, those flavors are offered. Then those flavors disappear the following week and are replaced by others.

The scheme has proven popular. Today, there are 308 locations in 40 states.

Bartone started his restaurant career as a busser at Yellowfins in Cheshire, and more recently worked at Shell & Bones in New Haven. He left the industry for a while but was lured back by a visit to the Crumbl in Methuen, Massa-



Crumbl offers classic chocolate chip and sugar cookies, as well as limited-time-only varieties that change weekly.

chusetts.

"It was a full spectrum experience. I felt like I was in the epicenter of cookies. The door opened and the smell was overwhelming," he said. "The size and weight of the cookies took me by surprise."

He chose the blueberry crumb cake, waffle and Oreo frosted flavors, but passed on the Circus Animal flavor. After eating the cookies, it was only a matter of time before he opened his own

four-pack box, a six-pack box and a party box with 12. "The cookies are huge, so if you buy 12, that's really enough for about 20 people," Sweetapple said. "The cookies that are flavored like pies are actually little pies, but the crust is a cookie."

He added, "we use only the best ingredients, cinnamon from Saigon, vanilla from Madagascar."

Four-inch cookies cost around \$4.50 each, but the price per cookie goes down when multiple cookies are ordered. The store also will sell ice cream, with flavors that are offered for longer periods of time than the cookie flavors. Catering orders feature smaller cookies, about half the size.

Sweetapple said the crew at the store strives for a 4-minute window between the in-store ordering of the cookie and the handing over of the order. The store also does on-app ordering, curbside service and delivery through DoorDash and UberEats.

The shop is at 1540 Pleasant Valley Road, in The Plaza at Buckland Hills, on the far eastern end of the mall next door to Fresh Monkee and across from Starbucks. When it opens, hours will be Monday to Thursday 8 a.m. to 10 p.m., Friday and Saturday 8 a.m. to midnight, closed Sundays. Visit crumbl.com for more info.

Susan Dunne can be reached at sdunne@courant.com.



PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Richard D. Peoples, Late of East Hampton (21-00336)

The Hon. Jennifer L. Berkenskot, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Region # 14 Probate Court, by decree dated November 24, 2021, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Suzanne B. Emond, Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Maureen Peoples c/o DONALD L HAMER,
DONALD L HAMER LLC, 36 SCHOOL
STREET, P.O. BOX 141, GLASTONBURY, CT
06033
11/30/21 7094454

**Court of Probate, District of Berlin
Probate Court
NOTICE OF HEARING
INSOLVENT ESTATE**

ESTATE OF Lori A. Skinner (21-00120)

Pursuant to an order of Hon. Michael A. Carrier, Judge, a hearing will be held to determine whether the above estate is insolvent, as is represented in documentation on file at the Court of probate. Said hearing, wherein the Court's decision may affect your interests, if any, will be held at the court of probate, One Liberty Square, New Britain, CT 06051, on December 15, 2021, at 10:00 AM. By Order of the Court
Susan I. Meagher,
Chief Clerk
11/30/2021 7092732

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Carol M. Phillips (21-0641)

The Hon. Jeannine Lewis, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Saybrook Probate Court, by decree dated November 23, 2021, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Rosemary L. Nolin, Assistant Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Stephen Phillips c/o SUZANNA McCUALEY,
HUDSON, KILBY AND McCUALEY, LLC, 10
BOKUM ROAD, P.O. BOX 398,
ESSEX, CT 06426
11/26/2021 7094162

BRISTOL BOARD OF EDUCATION
CITY OF BRISTOL, CONNECTICUT
Request for Qualifications 2P22-051
Professional Architectural/Engineering Services Relative to
Construction of a New Northeast Middle School

In accordance with the requirements set forth in C.G.S. 10-287, the City of Bristol is seeking submissions of qualifications for complete architectural and engineering services relative to replacement of the Northeast Middle School, located at 532 Stevens Street, Bristol, CT 06010.

Project materials and submission requirements may be obtained at no charge from the City of Bristol Purchasing Department web site via the following link:
<https://www.bristolct.gov/Bids.aspx?BidID=1085>

There will be an opportunity to discuss the project with City/BOE Staff on December 8, 2021 at 9:00 am, at the Board of Education Administration Building located at 129 Church St., Bristol, CT 06010.

Qualifications will be accepted by the Purchasing Department until December 20, 2021 at 1:00 pm; submissions received after this date and time will not be considered. The City reserves the right to waive any informality in any submission, to reject any and/or all submissions, and to accept the proposal(s) that in its judgment is in its best interest. Interested firms are required to submit one original copy via digital media of the proposal to the Purchasing Department no later than the date and time noted above. Submissions may be made via email, shared file service, or USB drive delivered to the address noted below; the City does not assume responsibility for failure of submissions to be received by the City by the date and time noted above.

The awarded firm will take affirmative action to ensure that applicants are employed, and that employees are treated during employment, without regard to their race, color, religion, gender, or national origin.

Roger D. Rousseau, Purchasing Agent
Purchasing Department
111 North Main Street
Bristol, CT 06010
Tel. (860) 584-6195
Fax (860) 584-6171
<http://www.bristolct.gov/bids>
11/30/2021 7092679

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Ann Bell-Ricci, Late of Clinton (21-0694)

The Hon. Jeannine Lewis, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Saybrook Probate Court, by decree dated November 19, 2021, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Marge B. Calltharp, Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Richard B. Bell, c/o KRISTEN BROOKE PROUT, RWC LLC ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELORS AT LAW, 330 SOUTH MAIN STREET, MIDDLETON, CT 06457
11/30/2021 7094429

**City of Bristol, Connecticut
INVITATION TO BID**

Notice is hereby given that the Purchasing Department for the City of Bristol, Connecticut is accepting sealed responses on the following:

2022-039R Chevy Silverado, 3500 HD LT 4x4 Crew Cab Pickup; bids due December 10, 2021 at 10:30am
2A22-053 Electronic Waste Collection & Recycling; due December 15, 2021 at 2:00 pm

Sealed responses will be accepted until the due date and time as noted above. The City reserves the right to waive informality in bid responses, and to accept any or all bid responses, if in its judgment the best interests of the City will be served.

The successful bidder shall not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, color, religion, gender, or national origin. The Contractor will take affirmative action to ensure that applicants are employed, and that employees are treated during employment without regard to their race, color, religion, gender, or national origin.

Plans and specifications can be obtained online at the website below, or by contacting:

City of Bristol Purchasing Department
111 North Main St, Bristol, CT 06010
Tel. (860) 584-6195
Fax (860) 584-6171
<http://www.bristolct.gov/bids>
11/30/2021 7093217

**LEGAL NOTICE OF DECISION
TOWN OF DEEP RIVER PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION**

At its virtual Regular Meeting of Thursday, November 18, 2021 at 7:00 p.m., the Deep River Planning and Zoning Commission made the following decisions:

Approved: Special Permit Application, Town Use (Farmers/Craft Market), Deep River Congregational Church, 1 Church Street (Map 57, Lot 86); Applicant: Paul Santowski (Town of Deep River, Sponsor)

Approved: Text Amendment Application: Section 4.16.8, Temporary Moratorium on Recreational Cannabis Facilities; Applicant: Deep River Planning & Zoning Commission

Details of the decisions are available in the meeting minutes filed in the Town Clerk's Office.

Respectfully,
Anthony Bolduc
PZC Chairman
11/30/21 7094121

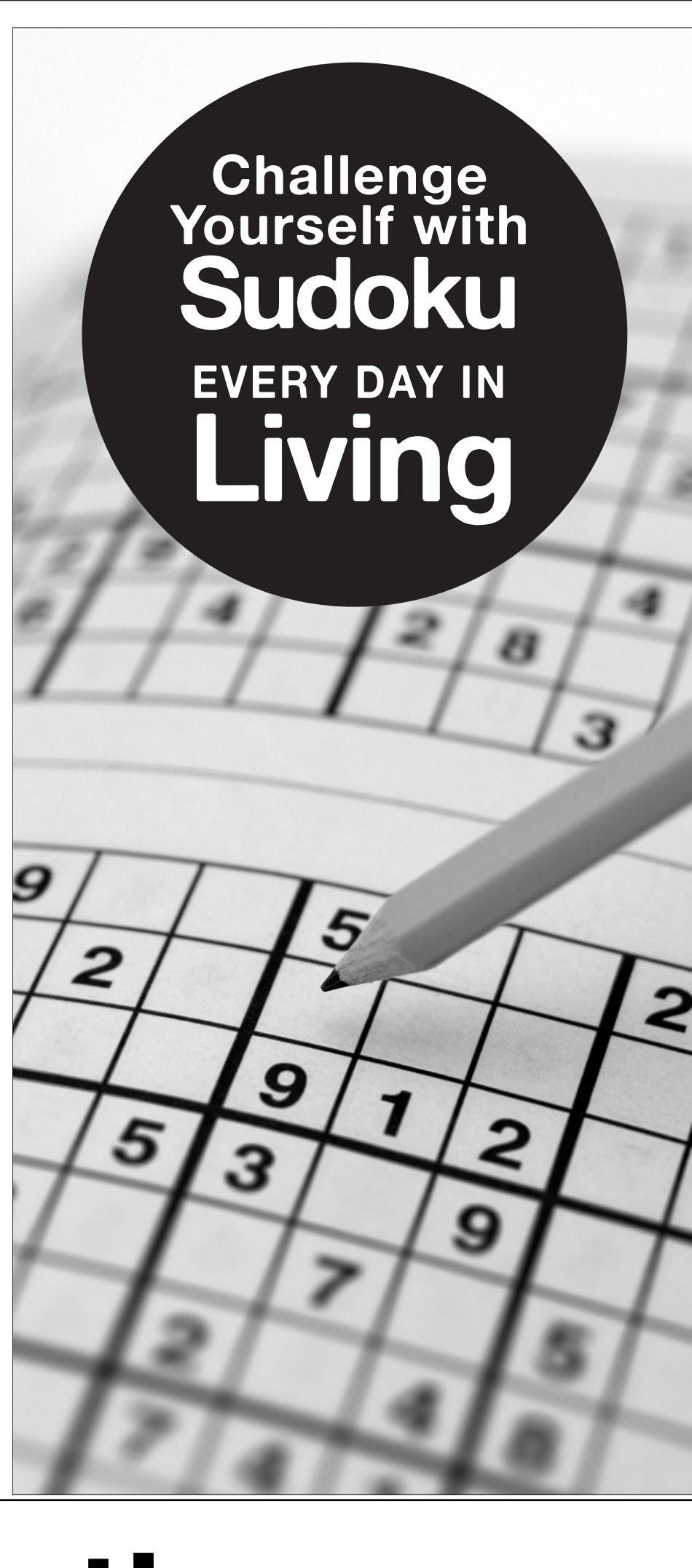
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Hartford Courant

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LIVING

WWW.COURANT.COM/FEATURES

Haim lives out Valley dream in 'Licorice Pizza'

A natural, musician nets near universal praise in film debut

By Lindsey Bahr
Associated Press

When Paul Thomas Anderson first mentioned to Alana Haim that he wanted to put her in a movie, she assumed it would be as an extra walking through the frame, or something. And she thought that would be pretty great.

They'd gotten to know one another's families over the years. Anderson directed a few music videos for her and her sisters' band Haim, and their mother also happened to be Anderson's favorite art teacher when he was a young kid. But the ask meant even more than that.

As a San Fernando Valley girl, there was no better chronicler of her home turf than Paul Thomas Anderson. "Boogie Nights" was the movie that made the Valley cool, she said.

Then one night, Haim got an email with no subject and a word document attached. It was an untitled Paul Thomas Anderson script and the main character's name was Alana, a 20-something woman living in the Valley in the 1970s. He'd written it for her and wanted her to star. Her family would also appear.

"I obviously immediately said yes, and then I immediately went to sleep and thought to myself, 'What did I just get myself into?'" Haim laughed.

She had never even been in a film before.

But the 29-year-old needn't have worried: She is a natural movie star and has gotten near universal praise for her performance in "Licorice Pizza," now



Cooper Hoffman and Alana Haim, who had never been in a film before, star in Paul Thomas Anderson's "Licorice Pizza." MELINDA SUE GORDON/MGM

opened in limited release and in theaters everywhere on Christmas.

This interview with Haim has been edited for clarity and length.

Q: What was the first day on set like?

A: The first day on set I can explain as pure chaos. The closest I'd ever gotten to a movie set was doing the backlot tour at Universal Studios. It was exactly how I pictured it in my brain. I think the one thing that was missing was just like a camel being taken through like those old timey movie sets. It felt like there were a million people on set and honestly felt like the world was spinning at 100 miles per hour. And then all of a sudden in a snap, it was just still and everyone had

just miraculously disappeared. And then we heard "Action!" and Bradley Cooper walked out. That was the first time anyone had seen him as Jon Peters, including me and Cooper (Hoffman, her co-star). We had not had any contact with him before we started shooting. And that was day one. The first second of shooting was Bradley Cooper coming down the hallway and intimidating Cooper. It was insane. We were fully diving into the deep end for that.

Q: The '70s seem to loom large for a lot of LA kids. How did you get yourself in the mindset of the time?

A: I've always been in awe of the '70s. That's when my mom was in her early 20s, and I think if

I could hold up a magic mirror and ask it for anything it would be, "Can you show me my mom dancing in the '70s?" And it's no secret that me and my siblings in our band were heavily influenced by '70s music, so it felt like second nature to me. When you're on set and everything around you is period, it felt, it just felt right, and I felt like this was my era.

Q: Did you have any input on your costumes? Did you get to keep anything?

A: I wish I kept my whole wardrobe. That's like my dream wardrobe. Alana Kane's wardrobe is just impeccable. I had a lot of say. I did my own hair and makeup for the whole movie, which is why there's a lot of acne everywhere

because I don't know how to do my hair and makeup, but that's what it would be if I was a young woman in the early '70s, and we wanted it to be very realistic. We wanted to show what real people look like. Even when I was growing up in the Valley, you couldn't wear makeup because you would sweat it off.

Q: What was it like acting with your family? Was your mom thrilled?

A: She was so happy. I mean, what a full circle to teach Paul when he was 7 or 8 years old and then now be in one of his movies. I think she cried the whole day. And also my dad's hilarious. My dad's the funniest person I know, and I'm my dad's biggest fan, and the fact that now

there is a camera to capture how funny he is, is the best scenario for me. And all that was improv.

Q: Do you want to keep being in movies now or like just Paul's movies?

A: Can you ask Paul this question? That's like my dream. And Paul is the dream, and he feels like family. And he made me fall in love with this chapter of my life. It could have gone a completely different way. I was so nervous to do this movie, and he made me feel like I could accomplish anything. And that's how he's made me feel since the day that I met him, even doing music videos with him. I'm incredibly lucky that I have him on my team cheering me on, and I'm very lucky to be on his team.

CELEBRITIES

Holland to return for Spider-Man

From news services

It appears that "Spider-Man: No Way Home" will not be Tom Holland's last outing as Marvel's neighborhood web-slinger.

According to longtime "Spider-Man" producer Amy Pascal, Holland is expected to return as Spider-Man for at least three more movies in the Marvel Cinematic Universe.

"This is not the last movie that we are going to make with Marvel — (this is not) the last Spider-Man movie," she told movie ticketing site Fandango on Monday. "We are getting ready to make the next Spider-Man movie with Tom Holland and Marvel, it just isn't part of ... we're thinking of this as three films, and now we're going to go onto the next three. This is not the last of our MCU movies."

Representatives for Marvel, Sony and Holland didn't immediately respond to Variety's requests for comment.

Holland, who has already spent six years as "Spider-Man" across three stand-alone movies and several Avengers mashups, has recently expressed apprehension about continuing to play the character in future installments.

"I have to take Peter Parker into account as well because he is an important part of my life," he told GQ ahead of "No Way Home," which debuts in theaters Dec. 17. "If I'm playing Spider-Man after I'm 30, I've done something wrong."

In the same GQ interview, Pascal said she spoke with Holland about doing "like, 100 more" movies. "I'm never going to make Spider-Man movies without him," she said. "Are you kidding me?"

Gucci heirs rip film: The heirs of Aldo Gucci, who



Tom Holland attends the GQ Men of the Year Celebration on Nov. 18 in West Hollywood, Calif. RODIN ECKENROTH/GETTY

was chairman of the Gucci fashion house from 1953 to 1986, have issued a statement saying they are "a bit disconcerted" about what they claim is their inaccurate portrayal in Ridley Scott's "House of Gucci" film.

"The production of the film did not bother to consult the heirs before describing Aldo Gucci — president of the company for 30 years (played by Al Pacino in the film) — and the members of the Gucci family as thugs, ignorant and insensitive to the world around them," the statement said.

It added that the pic attributes "a tone and an attitude" to the protagonists of the well-known events that never belonged to them."

"This is extremely painful from a human point of view and an insult to the legacy on which the brand is built today," it noted.

McConaughey opts out of politics: Actor Matthew McConaughey isn't running for Texas governor after months of publicly flirting with the idea of becoming the latest celebrity candidate.

The Academy Award

winner said in a video posted Sunday night that political leadership was not a route he was choosing to take "at this moment." McConaughey, 52, said he would instead focus on supporting businesses and foundations that create pathways for others to succeed.

The actor had never said what party if any he would run under while acknowledging that he was mulling a run for governor in his home state. McConaughey had also shied away from going into policy specifics and positions on contentious issues in Texas.

"Politicians? The good ones can help us to get to where we need to go, yeah," McConaughey said in the video posted to Twitter. "But let's be clear, they can't do anything for us unless we choose to do for ourselves."

Nov. 30 birthdays: Director Ridley Scott is 84. Actor Mandy Patinkin is 69. Singer Billy Idol is 66. Actor-director Ben Stiller is 56. DJ Steve Aoki is 44. Actor Kaley Cuoco is 36. Model Chrissy Teigen is 36. Actor Rebecca Rittenhouse is 33. Actor Tyla Harris is 21.



ASK AMY

By Amy Dickinson

askamy@amydickinson.com Twitter@askingamy

'Bestie' worries about role in friend's affair

Dear Amy: My best friend of 25 years is having an affair. I'm devastated. We raised our kids together, our families spent holidays and vacations together, but most of all she has been my soul sister and confidant.

I have tried to be the best support since this began, listening and trying to be non-judgmental.

The problem is that my dad cheated on my mom. The day I found out was the worst day of my life. I spent years angry, developed a severe eating disorder, and needed years of therapy.

I love her children like my own and don't want them to go through that trauma.

What's my job as a best friend? Must I show my support, no matter what?

I have lost respect and feel like it's changed everything. Am I being judgmental and not a true friend? I want this friendship to weather this storm, but need advice on this "besties" role.

— Friend in Anguish

Dear Friend: Friends tell each other the truth, and a deep and abiding friendship can withstand the tumult that honesty sometimes brings on.

It is possible, and preferable, to deliver your radical honesty without attaching judgment to it. You do this by using "I statements," and by owning your personal distress about this. For example: "I'm upset about this. I'm worried about your family's future. My father's infidelity destroyed me as a child, and this is bringing up a lot of painful memories for me." I also think it's totally OK to convey to

your friend, "I'm unsure of my role, here. I don't feel comfortable being your confidant about this affair. I want you to know that our friendship is important to me, and I don't want to lose it."

It would be natural for you to step back a bit as she goes through this whirlwind. Understand that people do make mistakes. People hurt one another. Mistakes can be forgiven. Hurts can be healed. But once you really lose respect for a person, it's game over.

Dear Amy: My daughter said that she got the wedding of her dreams.

Family and friends came from far and wide to celebrate her nuptials. Both her mother and I were thrilled that things went as she wanted.

However, she was so caught up as the center of attention that she ignored the common tradition of greeting each table and saying a few words to their guests. Even after I asked her to speak to the guests, she ignored my brother and sister and their families entirely.

He let me know the next day how hurt they were.

Her mother and I were crushed and had no idea that she had neglected them in this way.

Of course, I will strongly recommend making amends to these relatives. I feel I failed as a parent and failed my daughter by not being aware of this fault at that time. I thought that we had raised her better.

What would you suggest I add to our conversation?

— Deflated Post Wedding

Dear Deflated: Rather than add to your conversation

with your daughter, I suggest that you take away something: Your own sense of embarrassment, shame and any responsibility you might be tempted to assume for her rudeness. You prompted her to do the right thing. She ignored your prompt. Yes, she is an adult. This behavior is her responsibility. Not only is greeting one's wedding guests basic wedding etiquette — it is also simply a "nice" thing to do, and for many people would be instinctual.

You and your wife should tell her, "Your aunt and uncle let us know that they were so disappointed that you didn't take the time to greet them at the wedding. This would have taken you two minutes, and it would have made them feel appreciated. We hope you will choose to make things right, by apologizing to them."

Dear Amy: "Good Auntie" should continue the use of the pronoun "she" and "her" instead of "they/them" for her young niece. She should use the child's birth name if she is more comfortable with that.

The parents and child are asking Auntie to be tolerant. Auntie has the same right to ask that they be tolerant of her use of name/pronoun.

— A Grandmother

Dear Grandmother: A truly "Good Auntie" would recognize how deliberately hurtful this choice would be.

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'Get Back' dispels, confirms some Beatles myths

Series reexamines ill-fated 'Let it Be' recording session

By David Bauder
Associated Press

For 50 years, the fixed narrative had the Beatles' "Let it Be" recording session as a miserable experience with a band where members were sick of each other, sick of their work and in the process of breaking up.

The nearly 8-hour, Peter Jackson-produced documentary culled from film and recording outtakes of those sessions instead reveals a self-aware band with a rare connection and work ethic that still knew how to have fun — yet was also in the process of breaking up. The "Get Back" series recently debuted on Disney+.

Produced by a Beatlemaniac for fellow Beatlemaniacs, it can be an exhausting experience for those not in the club. Beyond the treats it offers fans, "Get Back" is a fly-on-the-wall look at the creative process of a band still popular a half-century after its ceased existence.

Jackson, the Academy Award-winning maker of the "Lord of the Rings" series, was discussing another project with the Beatles when he inquired about what happened to all the outtakes of director Michael Lindsay-Hogg's 1970 "Let it Be" film.

Nearly 60 hours of film taken over three weeks existed, mostly unseen, and the band had been considering what to do with it. Jackson took that material, as well as 150 hours of audio recordings, and spent four years building a story.

He approached with the fear that it might be a depressing slog.

Lindsay-Hogg's film is viewed as a chronicle of the band's demise because it was released shortly after the breakup was announced. Individual Beatles reinforced



Ringo Starr, from left, Paul McCartney, John Lennon and George Harrison in the Peter Jackson-produced documentary series "Get Back." **DISNEY+**

the notion with negative comments about the experience, where they had given themselves a tight deadline to write and record new material in preparation of a live show, with cameras following it all.

"I just waited for it to go bad," Jackson said. "I waited for the arguments to begin. I waited for the conflict to begin. I waited for the sense that they hated each other. I waited for all the things I had read in the books, and it never showed up."

History overshadows the enjoyable moments revealed in the outtakes, like John Lennon singing "Two of Us" as a Bob Dylan impersonator, or he and Paul McCartney challenging each other to a run-through without moving their lips. Jackson restores the balance.

"The connection was incredible," drummer Ringo Starr recalled recently. "I'm an only child

(but) I had three brothers. And we looked out for each other. We looked after each other. We had a few rows with each other — that's what people do. But musically, every time we would count in — one, two, three, four — we were into being the best we could be."

Jackson follows the sessions day-by-day from their start in a cavernous film set that was eventually abandoned in favor of their familiar London recording studio, to the brief rooftop performance that was the last time the Beatles played in public.

The filmmaker is sensitive to the idea that he was brought in to "sanitize" the sessions, pointing out that "Get Back" depicts George Harrison briefly leaving the band, an event Lindsay-Hogg was not permitted to show.

That moment unfolded after a morning where Harrison watched, silently stewing, as Lennon and McCartney displayed their

tight creative connection working on "Two of Us" as if the others weren't there. When a lunch break came, Harrison had something more permanent in mind.

"I'm leaving the band now," he says, almost matter-of-factly, before walking out.

After a few days, and a couple of band meetings, Harrison was coaxed to return. The morning he does, the film shows he and Lennon reading a false newspaper report that they had come to blows, and faced off in boxing stances to mock it.

Along the way, Jackson's project dispels and reinforces pieces of conventional wisdom that has solidified through the years.

■ Myth No. 1: McCartney was a control freak.

■ Verdict: Partly true. The film shows Harrison visibly chafing at McCartney giving him and other band members instructions on how to play and cajoling

them into a decision on a live concert. The band had been somewhat aimless since the 1967 death of manager Brian Epstein. McCartney had taken on the "daddy" role, and isn't entirely comfortable with it. "I'm scared of me being the boss, and I have been for a couple of years," he says. "I don't get any support."

■ Myth No. 2: Yoko Ono broke up the Beatles.

■ Verdict: Not true. She's there at virtually every recording session, but mostly as a benign force sitting next to Lennon.

The other Beatle spouses all show up in the studio, although not as often.

The afternoon after Harrison left, the remaining Beatles clearly take out their frustration with some aggressive, atonal music, and Ono takes over his microphone — a spellbinding moment.

■ Myth No. 3: The Beatles had essentially turned into four solo artists, with the others as sidemen to each other's songs.

■ Verdict: Not true.

They're constantly collaborating, seeking and taking advice. At one point, Harrison confesses to

Lennon that he has been having trouble completing the line that became "attracts me like no other lover" in "Something."

Lennon suggests using a nonsense phrase — "attracts me like a cauliflower" — until something better emerges.

Through the film, viewers can see how the song "Get Back" emerged from McCartney working out a riff on the side, to he and Lennon trading lyrical suggestions and throwing out an idea to make it a song criticizing anti-immigrant sentiment, to the full band working out the arrangement. Pleased with the final result, it's Harrison who suggests immediately releasing it as a single.

"A glimpse of them working together is an enormously important artifact, not just for Beatles

fans but for anybody who is creative," said Bob Spitz, author of 2005's "The Beatles: The Biography."

■ Myth No. 4: Filming showed the Beatles breaking up.

■ Verdict: Essentially true. It becomes clear that Lennon's and Harrison's enthusiasm for being Beatles is waning. Lennon is clearly in love with Ono; McCartney tells Harrison and Starr that if it ever came down to a choice between her and the Beatles, Lennon would go with her.

Harrison, growing creatively, is becoming uncomfortable with his secondary role. He talks with Lennon about doing a solo album because he has enough songs written to fill his "quota" on Beatles albums for another decade. As if to prove his point, the Beatles rehearse Harrison's "All Things Must Pass," but decline to record it.

In the film, Lennon and Starr also discuss a meeting with Rolling Stones manager Allen Klein about taking over the Beatles' business, foreshadowing a bitter split with McCartney. "The whole thing is full of mini-stories," Jackson said.

Jackson, who had been expected to make a conventional documentary, said he was nervous taking his much longer final product back to McCartney, Starr and the families of Lennon and Harrison.

"But they came back and said, 'Great, don't change a thing,'" he said.

Among the priceless moments he unearthed is the joy on the Beatles' faces as they played on the studio rooftop. The film shows the whole performance, the Beatles rising to the challenge and having a great time doing it.

When the police finally end it, the band and entourage retreat to the studio and listen to a recording of what they've done. "This is a very good dry run for something else," says producer George Martin.

That, alas, was not to be.

TV Q&A

After seven seasons, is series 'Bosch' really done for good?

By Rich Heldenfels
Tribune News Service



Titus Welliver, left, and Jamie Hector in a scene from the final season of the Amazon series "Bosch." **AMAZON STUDIOS**

Q: I just completed streaming the series "Bosch." Even though the seventh season was labeled as the final season, it sure ended as if setting up a sequel. What are the future plans?

A: The detective drawn from the novels of Michael Connelly will indeed have a new TV life, in a series to stream on IMDb TV sometime in 2022. To be called "Bosch: Legacy," the series picks up about two years after the end of the "Bosch" series, according to an interview with Connelly in the Tampa Bay Times. "It will focus on three characters from the original series: Bosch (Titus Welliver), now working as a private detective; Honey 'Money' Chandler (Mimi Rogers), who last time we saw her was a high-powered defense attorney who'd been the victim of a murder attempt; and Bosch's daughter, Maddie (Madison Lintz), who is now an officer with the LAPD," the Tampa Bay Times said. "Some of the plot arc will carry over from the final season of 'Bosch,' Connelly said, but his 2016 novel 'The Wrong Side of Goodbye' will be the basis for much of the season."

Q: Will anyone ever rerun "The New Detectives"? The voice of Gene Galusha as narrator is worth it. (I know he died in 2008, but that doesn't stop me from wanting to hear him again). The programs were much like "Forensic Files" and were very interesting to me.

A: The forensic science series, which originally aired from 1996 to 2004, has many homes for its repeats. These include the

True Crime Network, a broadcast channel often used as a secondary digital service by broadcasters. (You can find its location in your area at [truecrime networktv.com](#).) Episodes of the series also stream on Hulu (which has a subscription fee), Tubi and Pluto TV.

Q: Why is "The Mary Tyler Moore Show" absent from TV screens? I've never loved a series as much as I've loved this gem.

A: What gets to our TV screens no longer comes just from broadcast or cable. An abundance of programming, new and old, is now found on streaming services, and the 1970-77 Moore series is on both Amazon Prime Video and Hulu, with fees attached. The series has also been released on DVD — and you may be able to find the discs through your local library to save money.

Q: On Judge Judy's new show, why isn't Byrd the bailiff with her?

A: Petri Hawkins Byrd, the "Judge Judy" bailiff for its 25-year run, told Entertainment Weekly that he was not asked to be part of her new streaming series "Judy Justice," now on IMDb TV.

"I didn't inquire as to why, that's (Judy Sheindlin's) choice," he said. "But she did inform me that fundamentally, I was priced out as the new bailiff on her new show. My salary would have been too much. I was curious: How would she know? She didn't ask me. She didn't give me an opportunity to have accepted a lower salary." Sheindlin, who makes an estimated \$47 million a year on TV, said in a statement to EW: "Byrd is terrific and we had a great 25-year run. This is a whole new program with a whole new cast and an exciting energy."

Q: What ever happened to the actor who played Dante's wife Lulu on "General Hospital"? She was put in a coma in the storyline, and nothing is heard about her.

A: Emma Rylan, who played Lulu, reportedly said last year that the show decided not to pick up her contract.

Do you have a question or comment about entertainment past, present and future? Write to Rich Heldenfels, P.O. Box 417, Mogadore, OH 44260, or brenfels@gmail.com. Letters may be edited.

HOROSCOPES

Tarot.com

Aries (March 21-April 19):

The stars are beckoning you! Your instincts are right on target. Looking the part of a polished professional could make a great impression. Dress for the job you want. Your loved ones may long to connect.

Taurus (April 20-May 20):

Alter your regimen to reflect your natural rhythms. If you feel most energized before lunch, it's a good idea to schedule the most challenging tasks at the beginning of the day. Your sensible attitude toward work may be noticed by someone you admire.

Gemini (May 21-June 20):

Collaboration is the name of the game! As your communicative ruler, you could form a productive alliance. Reach out to a peer in order to team up with them. Working in tandem is definitely a good idea at the moment. You might want to pack your suitcase!

Cancer (June 21-July 22):

Your heart and head could be arguing. There's nothing wrong with having desires, provided they don't consume you. In the end, getting what you want might be as simple as building your self-esteem. When you feel worthy of the relationships you want, they're more likely to flow into your life.

TODAY IN HISTORY

Associated Press

On Nov. 30, 1835:

Samuel Langhorne Clemens — better known as Mark Twain — was born.

In 1874: British statesman Sir Winston Churchill was born at Blenheim Palace.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22):

It's time to harvest some of your brilliant ideas! Make practical use of any thoughts. Take time out of your busy schedule. Your work might also raise your social profile — if there's anything that gets attention, it's someone who makes people's lives a lot more pleasant.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):

You might be even more productive than usual today. Tidying up your surroundings could give you energy to tackle jobs you have been dreading. If you've been seeking employment, think about applying for positions that allow you to work from home.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):

When you work with something you love, money tends to follow. As you trust your feelings, things should turn out well. If you're already happy with your current position, think about volunteering. Making the world a better place would be a natural extension of your nature.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):

It may be best to keep your thoughts and feelings secret. Pouring out your heart could lead to misunderstandings. It's probably wise to direct your deeper emotions into personal or professional projects instead. Expressing yourself creatively could be extremely beneficial for you right now.

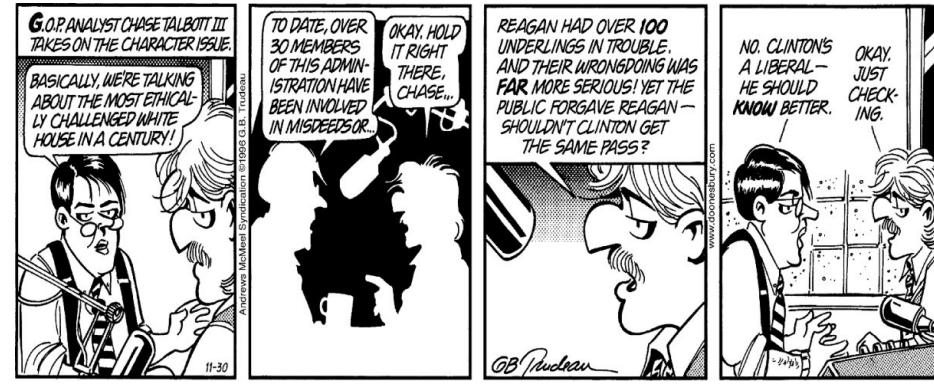
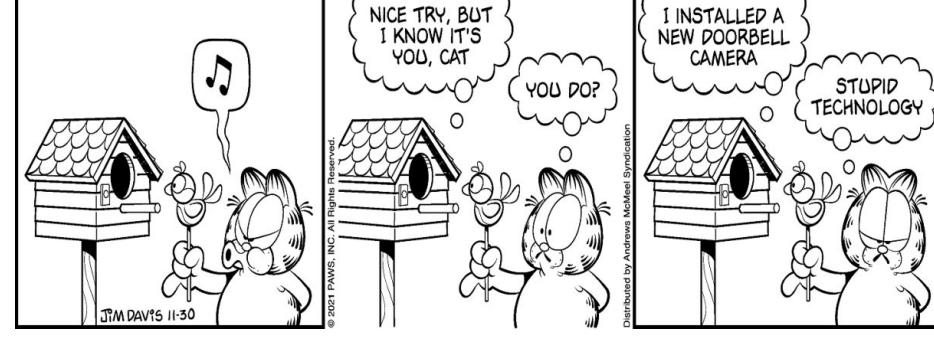
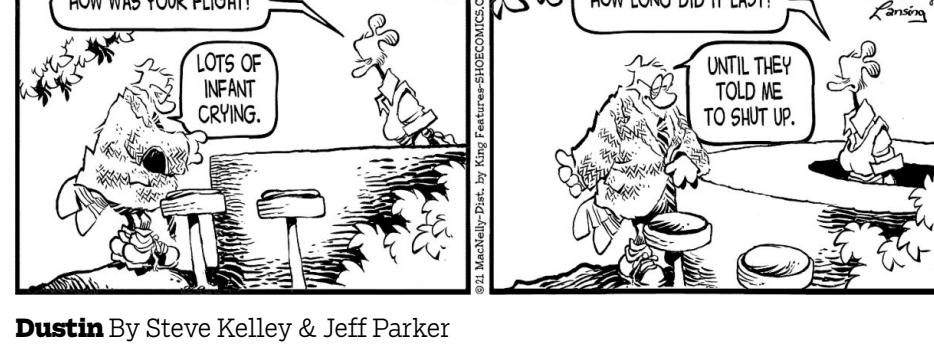
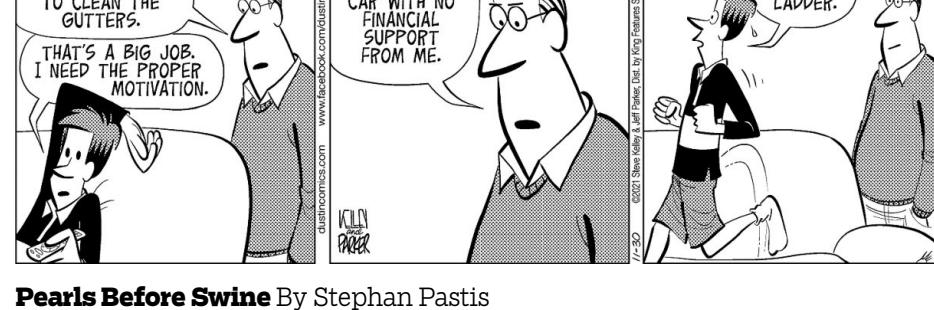
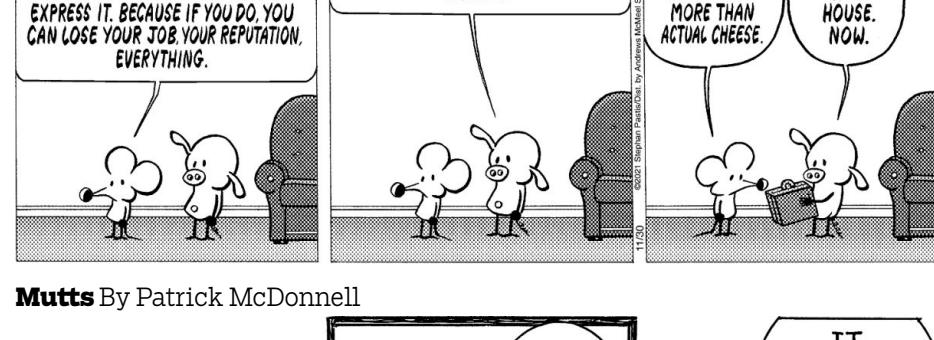
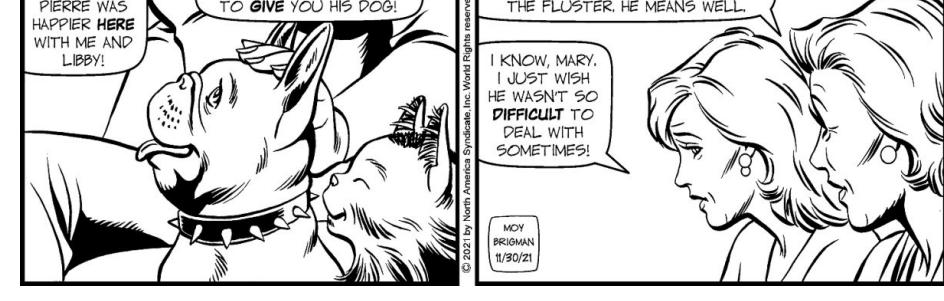
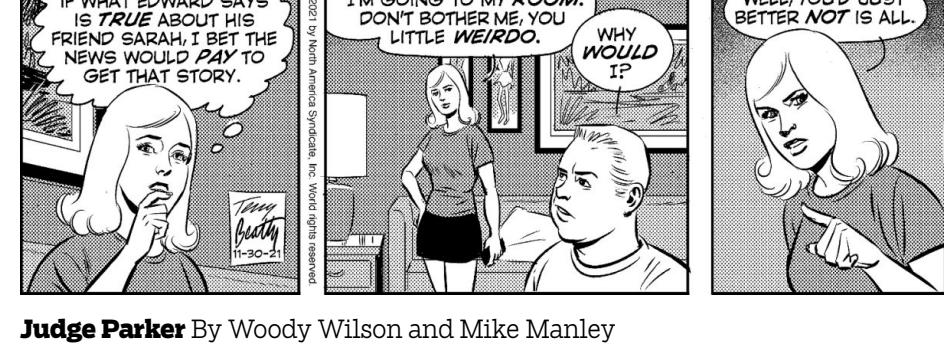
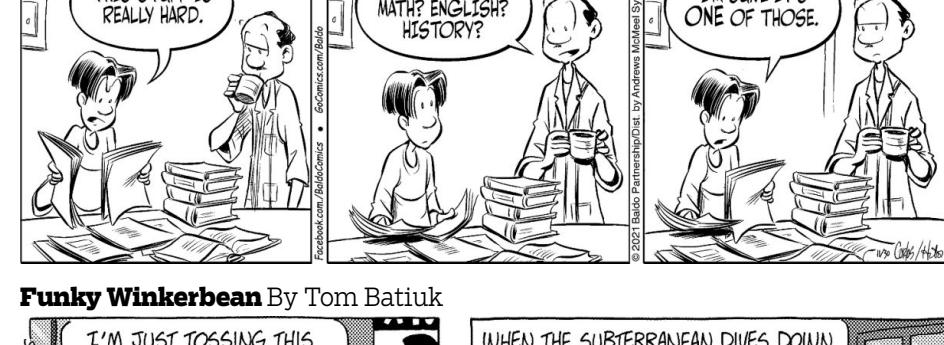
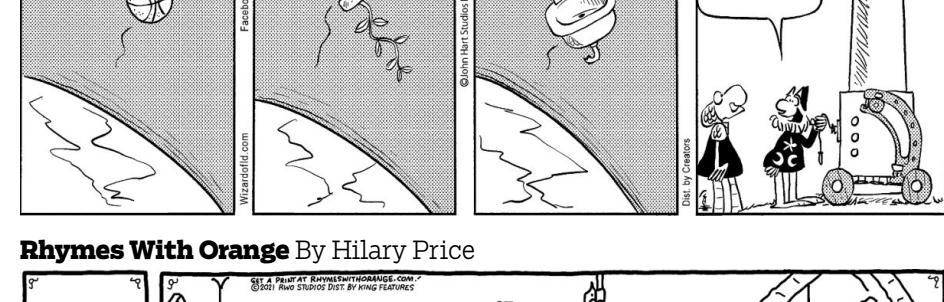
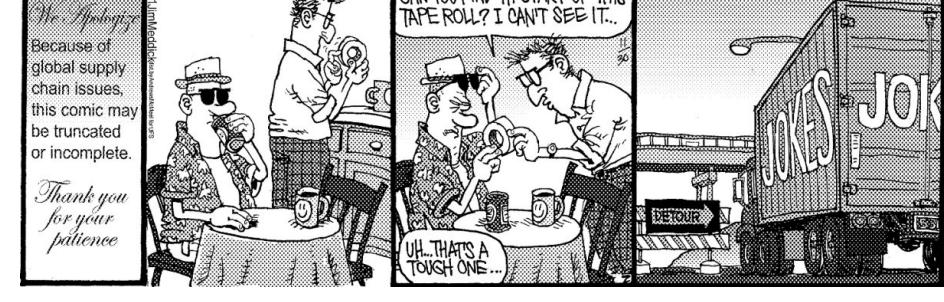
Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20):

Your ability to connect with virtually anyone might be especially evident. Contrasts and conflicts seem to vanish into thin air when you're on the scene! As a result, you could make friends with someone who comes from a background radically different from your own.

five-day waiting period for handgun purchases and background checks of prospective buyers.

In 2013: Paul Walker, the star of the "Fast & Furious" movie series, died.

In 2018: former President George H.W. Bush died at his Houston home at the age of 94; his wife of more than 70 years, Barbara Bush, had died in April.

Peanuts By Charles M. Schulz**Classic Doonesbury** By Garry Trudeau**Garfield** By Jim Davis**Shoe** By Gary Brookins & Susie MacNelly**Dustin** By Steve Kelley & Jeff Parker**Pearls Before Swine** By Stephan Pastis**Mutts** By Patrick McDonnell**Arctic Circle** By Alex Hallatt**Jump Start** By Robb Armstrong**Get Fuzzy** By Darby Conley**Blondie** By Dean Young and John Marshall**Dilbert** By Scott Adams**Gil Thorp** By Neal Rubin and Frank McLaughlin**Mary Worth** By Karen Moy and June Brigman**Rex Morgan, M.D.** By Terry Beatty**Judge Parker** By Woody Wilson and Mike Manley**Baldo** By Cantu and Castellanos**Funky Winkerbean** By Tom Batiuk**Lio** By Mark Tatulli**Wizard Of Id** By Johnny Hart and Brant Parker**Rhymes With Orange** By Hilary Price**Monty** By Jim Meddick

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EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

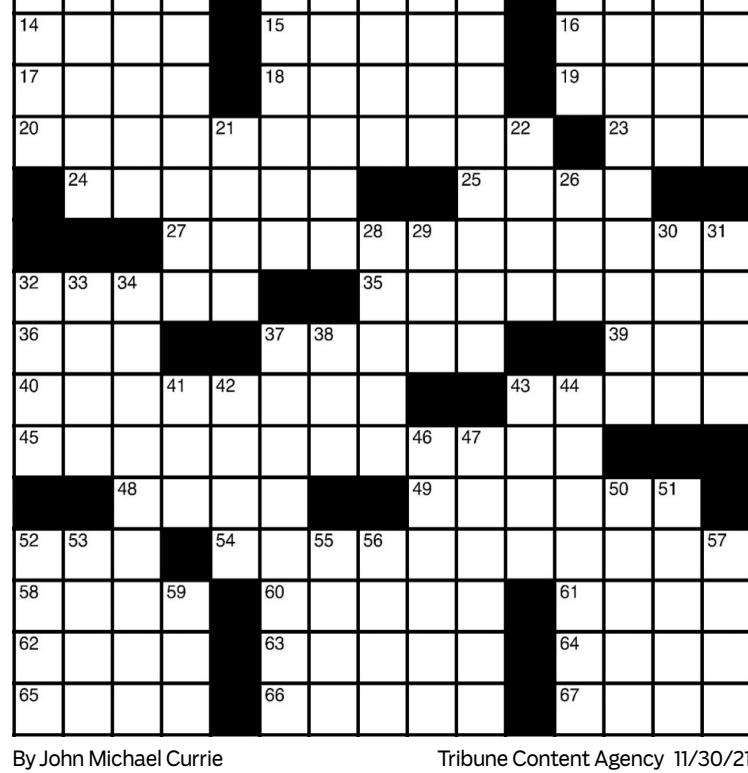
Across

1 Way in the woods
5 Japanese cattle breed yielding Kobe beef
10 Fleecy footwear brand
14 Currency named for a continent
15 Used for dinner, as dishes
16 Fit
17 Burnett on CNN
18 Author Dahl
19 Crib sheet user
20 Available workers, statistically
23 "Oedipus —"
24 Set of TV programs
25 First name in civil rights history
27 Meteorology, e.g.
32 Gets ready for a selfie
35 Tried to be like
36 Before, in poems
37 Explosion
39 Rock in a vein
40 Merchant
43 Cling wrap brand
45 Game in which grabbing a piece of cloth replaces tackling
48 Spanish kiss
49 Meteorologist's pressure line
52 Do stuff?
54 Period when everything is backwards ... and where the starts of

20-, 27- and 45-Across might be found?
58 Out of the office
60 Made a boo-boo
61 NFL analyst Tony
62 Google-owned navigation app
63 Volleyball great Gabrielle
64 Deuce defater
65 Had down pat
66 Dalmatian features
67 ___ Domini
21 Narrow inlets
22 Work really hard
26 Caribbean, for one
28 Essence
29 Texting format, for short
30 Michael of "Arrested Development"
31 Genesis garden
32 Flawless, in slang
33 Baseball's Hershiser
59 Bow wood

Down

1 Banana leftover
2 Subtle vibes
3 Wichita or Omaha
4 Distinguished guest, perhaps
5 Not so cold
6 "Raise your glass!"
7 Camping equipment
12 Taunt
13 River in which Achilles was dipped
21 Narrow inlets
22 Work really hard
26 Caribbean, for one
28 Essence
29 Texting format, for short
30 Michael of "Arrested Development"
31 Genesis garden
32 Flawless, in slang
33 Baseball's Hershiser
59 Bow wood



By John Michael Currie

Tribune Content Agency 11/30/21

BRIDGE

BY STEVE BECKER

North dealer.
Neither side vulnerable.**NORTH**

♦ 8 7 4 3
♥ A K Q 5
♦ A Q J
♣ Q J

WEST

♠ K Q J 10 5
♥ 9 4
♦ 7 3
♣ 7 6 4 2

EAST

♠ 9 2
♥ J 10 6 3
♦ K 8 4
♣ K 10 9 3

SOUTH

♠ A 6
♥ 8 7 2
♦ 10 9 6 5 2
♣ A 8 5

The bidding:

North East South West

1 ♥ Pass 1 NT Pass

2 NT Pass 3 NT

Opening lead — king of spades.

Vigilance — the price of victory

The secret of good card play is the ability to read how the unseen cards are divided.

Once you can place the location of the missing cards, your task is much easier to accomplish.

If you're a defender, your knowledge of declarer's hand comes first and foremost from the bidding.

Declarer is certain to have described his hand to at least some extent, and any further information you require will come from either your partner's plays or declarer's plays.

For example, suppose you're East in today's deal and your partner leads the king of spades, which wins, and then the ten of spades, taken by South with the ace. At this point, you should have an excellent idea of what declarer's hand looks like. You should also know that he will be unable to avoid going down one if you defend correctly.

It's not difficult to pinpoint South's values. He has no high cards in spades except the ace, and he must also have the ace of clubs, based on his bids of one and three notrump, as there is nothing else left for him to have. So, when South leads a diamond at trick three and finesse the queen, you should win with the king and return the king of clubs!

This play knocks South out of the box. Whatever he does, he ends up with only eight tricks — assuming you defend correctly thereafter. But if you fail to pay attention to the bidding, or to the significance of the plays to the first two tricks, you might not shift to the king of clubs at trick four. And if you return any other card — a heart, a diamond or a low club — declarer easily makes the contract.

Tomorrow: Never say die.**JUMBLE**

BY DAVID HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

CRPHE
VAAUG
RONLMA
RENOYR

Get the free **JUMBLE** app. Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble
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(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: THUMB DOOZY VOYAGE RAISIN
Answer: When offered roles in a surfing movie, Keanu Reeves and Patrick Swayze — GOT ON BOARD**TODAY'S SUDOKU**

5	8	7		2
7	2		4	1
		1	8	
		2		
5	3		1	4
		7		
1		3	8	
2	9		7	3
4			7	6

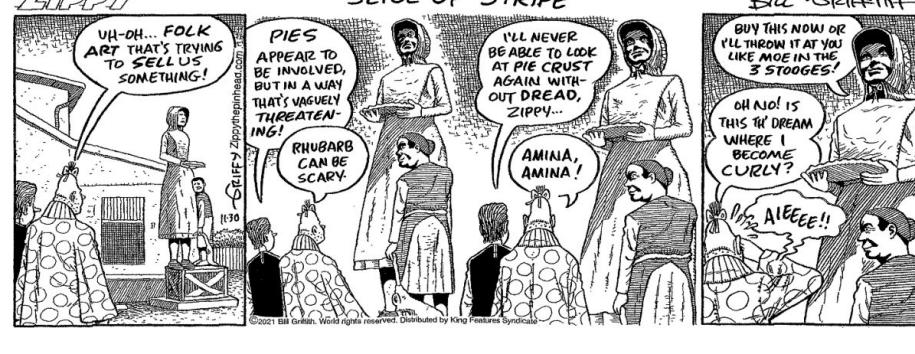
OPER	A	INE	P	T
FOCUS	SUM	UP	AGE	
FRONT	TO BACK	ERA		
NOOB	NESTLES			
VERY	RATA	ALEE		
OLE	FIRST	TOLAST		
WHAMO	KEENE			
SIMILAR	STENCIL			
SIMON	ATAR			
TOP	BOTTOM	HAM		
DEADENS	SSTS			
ANN	LEFT	TORIGHT		
TIO	MOORE	ADIEU		
ETS	ONRED	MEANT		

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk.**ANSWER TO PREVIOUS CROSSWORD PUZZLE**

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Print your answer here: " "

(Answers tomorrow)

**ANSWER TO PREVIOUS CROSSWORD PUZZLE**



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Hartford Courant

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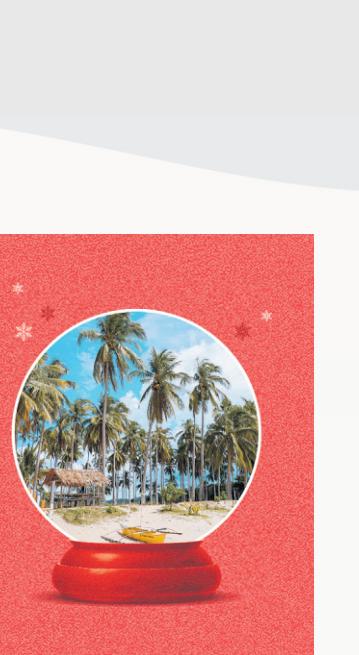
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UCONN MEN'S BASKETBALL

Huskies focus on mental toughness

By Shreyas Laddha

Hartford Courant

STORRS — As the UConn men's basketball team continues to climb up the rankings (No. 17 in the latest AP Top 25 poll), the Huskies (6-1) are doing so with mental toughness.

For UConn players and coaches, that was never more evident than in the Battle 4 Atlantis tournament in the Bahamas. In its first test against quality opponents, UConn proved its mettle.

UConn beat a tough then-No. 19 Auburn team in double overtime, narrowly lost to Michigan State down starter Isaah Whaley and put away a pesky VCU in overtime all in the span of three days.

Tonight's game**Maryland-Eastern Shore****at UConn**

7 p.m., CBSSN

■ **Inside:** UConn forward Adama Sanogo named Big East Player of the Week; Huskies rise to No. 17 in AP poll. **Page 4**

"I learned how tough we were mentally," said Whaley after practice on Monday. "I kind of didn't get a good look at it playing the lower-level teams, but playing high-level teams we showed how tough we were mentally and physically."

For Whaley and company, this UConn team has a different feel

than previous years.

"Mental toughness gets you through a lot of tough times," Whaley said. "Each one of the games there are moments where in my past years we would have just folded and gave in. Just through experience and mental toughness, we came through."

UConn coach Dan Hurley credits last year's games for helping to improve the Huskies' toughness.

"Last year we learned how to win," Hurley said.

"As bad as we played in the VCU game, there wasn't a point where a group in a timeout didn't look like they felt they weren't going to win the game. The huddles were

Turn to UConn, Page 4



UConn coach Dan Hurley looks to veterans like Isaiah Whaley to spark his team when things get tough. CLOE POISSON/SPECIAL TO THE COURANT

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL PLAYOFFS PREVIEW

Avon High School coach Jeff Redman runs a practice in 2019, when the Falcons won two games. He took over the program in 2018 and began that season with 18 players. He now has 60 and has the Falcons in the Class M quarterfinals. COURANT FILE

FINDING THEIR WAY BACK

Avon football perseveres, makes the CIAC playoffs for the first time since 2012

By Lori Riley
Hartford Courant

AVON — Four years ago, the Avon freshman football players were on a team that won two games. They won two games the next year. Last season was canceled due to COVID-19.

This year, the seniors were ready to play, ready to win more than two games. When they first came out four years ago, only 18 players showed up for coach Jeff Redman's first practice. This year, they had 60 when they faced another obstacle.

Three hours before the Falcons were set to open their 2021 season on their new artificial turf field, senior captain Cameron Dawiczyk got a call on the way to the game. COVID-19 had been surging through the high school, and members of the football team were affected.

The game was called off.

"That hurt, to not play," said Dawiczyk, a running back and safety. "The next week, the same thing happened. The week after that, it happened again. So we didn't really know if we were ever going to get healthy. I questioned if we were even going to play a game this

Turn to Avon, Page 2

Inside Preview: Maloney to face Bristol Central; Bloomfield on a mission to win as the CIAC high school football playoffs start Tuesday. **Page 2**

UCONN WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Bueckers announces NIL deal with Gatorade

By Alexa Philippou
Hartford Courant

UConn women's basketball sophomore Paige Bueckers has another name, image and likeness deal in the books.

The guard became the first college athlete to sign a multi-year NIL deal with Gatorade on Monday. A release said that Bueckers will work with the company to "help lead the growth of women's basketball."

"It was a blessing to win Gatorade Player of the Year in high school, and now it's truly surreal to be an official member of the Gatorade family," Bueckers said in a release. "I know this is just the beginning of our partnership and can't wait to get to work with Gatorade to drive impact in the community and on the women's game."

The deal comes three weeks after Bueckers' first big-time NIL partnership with sneaker marketplace StockX was announced. Other notable female athletes aligned with Gatorade include Elena Delle Donne, Serena Williams, Abby Wambach and Sydney McLaughlin. The likes of Zion Williamson, Trevor Lawrence and Jayson Tatum are also part of Gatorade's athlete roster.

A report by Bloomberg specified that, as part of the deal, Bueckers will "promote the brand in television commercials, social posts, product collaborations and events."

"As a former Gatorade player of the year and one of the top college athletes playing today, Paige Bueckers is the perfect addition to the Gatorade family," Gatorade's global head of sports marketing Jeff Kearney said in statement. "From her electrifying performances on the court to fueling change off of it, Paige exemplifies everything it means to be a Gatorade athlete, and partnering with her is a statement to the next generation of our continued commitment to women in sport."

Prior to arriving in Storrs, the Hopkins, Minnesota, standout was honored by the company as the 2020 Gatorade Female Athlete of the Year her senior year of high school. During her freshman season at UConn, Bueckers made history as the first freshman to win AP national player of the year, the Naismith Trophy, the Wooden Award and the USBWA's Ann Meyers Drysdale Award.

Alexa Philippou can be reached at aphilippou@courant.com.

METS

Sources: Scherzer has agreed to record 3-year, \$130M deal

By Deesha Thosar
New York Daily News

Three-time Cy Young award winner Max Scherzer has shattered baseball's record for highest average salary, agreeing Monday

to a three-year, \$130 million, contract with the New York Mets, sources said.

Scherzer will join a Mets rotation headlined by Jacob deGrom, Scherzer's former rival in the NL East, to form the most dominant

1-2 punch in baseball. The Mets' offer includes an opt-out after the second year, according to sources, making for roughly \$43 million in average annual value (AAV). That tops Gerrit Cole's deal with the

Yankees (nine years, \$324 million) for the largest AAV on a contract in MLB history.

Owner Steve Cohen's historic spending spree blew the Mets past

Turn to Mets, Page 6

Safety Tip of the Day

Always remove all of the snow and ice from the windows, hood, roof, and trunk of your vehicle before you start to drive. It's the law.

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SPORTS**UP NEXT**

Patriots: at Bills, Monday, 8:15 p.m.
Giants: at Dolphins, Sunday, 1 p.m.
Jets: Eagles, Sunday, 1 p.m.
UConn MBB: Maryland-Eastern Shore (XL Center), Tuesday, 7 p.m.; Grambling State (Gampel), Saturday, 4 p.m.; Big East-Big 12 Battle: at West Virginia, Dec. 8, 7 p.m.

UConn WBB: at Seton Hall, Friday, 7 p.m.; Notre Dame (Gampel), Dec. 5, noon; at Georgia Tech, Dec. 9, 7 p.m.

Celtics: 76ers,

Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.; at Jazz, Friday, 9 p.m.; at Trail Blazers, Saturday, 10 p.m.

Knicks: at Nets, Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.; Bulls, Thursday, 7:30 p.m.; Nuggets, Saturday, 1 p.m.

Nets: Knicks, Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.; Timberwolves, Friday, 7:30 p.m.; Bulls, Saturday, 7:30 p.m.

UConn hockey: at Merrimack, Friday, 7 p.m.; Merrimack, Saturday, 3 p.m.; at AIC, Dec. 9, 7 p.m.

Bruins: Red Wings,

Tuesday, 7 p.m.; at Predators, Thursday, 8 p.m.; Lightning, Saturday, 7 p.m.

Rangers: Flyers, Wednesday, 7 p.m.; Sharks, Friday, 7 p.m.; Blackhawks, Saturday, 8 p.m.

Wolf Pack: Springfield, Wednesday, 7 p.m.; at Providence, Friday, 7 p.m.; Utica, Saturday, 7:30 p.m.

TV/RADIO BASKETBALL

5 p.m.: Saginaw Valley State at Butler. (Live) FS1
7 p.m.: Presbyterian at Tennessee. (Live) SEC

7 p.m.: Maryland-Eastern Shore at UConn. (Live) CBSSN

7 p.m.: Indiana at Syracuse. (Live) ESPN2
7 p.m.: Minnesota at Pittsburgh. (Live) ESPNU

7:30 p.m.: Knicks at Nets. (Live) TNT

9 p.m.: Jackson State at Marquette. (Live) CBSSN

9 p.m.: Clemson at Rutgers. (Live) ESPN2
9 p.m.: Northwestern at Wake Forest. (Live) ESPNU

9:30 p.m.: Duke at Ohio State. (Live) ESPN

10 p.m.: Warriors at Suns. (Live) TNT

HOCKEY

7 p.m.: Red Wings at Bruins. (Live) NESN

SOCCER

2:30 p.m.: Italian Serie B SPAL vs Lecce. (Live) FSP

7:30 p.m.: MLS New York City FC at New England Revolution. (Live) FS1

10 p.m.: CONCACAF League Semifinal, Leg 2 – Comunicaciones vs Deportivo Guastatoya. (Live) FSP

5 a.m.: 2021 FIFA Arab Cup Algeria vs Sudan. (Live) FS1

TENNIS

8 a.m.: Sao Paulo-ATP Challenger, Early Rounds. (Live) TENNIS

10 a.m.: Davis Cup Quarterfinals. (Live) CBSSN

2:30 p.m.: Sao Paulo-ATP Challenger, Early Rounds. (Live) TENNIS



Ellington's Phillip Vrakas tries to find a way between Rockville defenders Travon Edmonson and DeShaun Perry in the Thanksgiving Eve game between Rockville and Ellington. Rockville won 27-7, and the teams will meet again Tuesday night in a Class M quarterfinal game.

STEVE SMITH/HARTFORD COURANT

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL PLAYOFFS PREVIEW

Maloney to face Bristol Central; Bloomfield a team on a mission

By Lori Riley

Hartford Courant

The CIAC football playoffs begin Tuesday night with the quarterfinals hosted by the highest seed.

All games are at 6:30 p.m.

Here's a look at the local teams' matchups:

CLASS LL

Shelton vs. Hall

No. 5 Shelton (8-2) travels to face No. 4 Hall (9-1) in West Hartford. Hall's only loss came to Maloney, 49-18 on Nov. 5. Shelton hasn't played since Nov. 13. Shelton was scheduled to play Derby on Thanksgiving, but the Red Raiders forfeited their last five games due to insufficient numbers.

Southington vs. New Canaan

No. 7 Southington (8-2) makes the long drive to No. 2 New Canaan (9-1). The Blue Knights lost to Conard 31-24 in their second to last game but beat Cheshire on Thanksgiving to end the regular season. New Canaan's only loss was to Wilton, 20-17 on Oct. 23, and ended its regular season on Thanksgiving with a 12-7 win over previously unbeaten Darien. Southington advanced to the 2019 semifinals but lost to Darien, 21-12.

CLASS L

Hand vs. St. Joseph

No. 8 seed Hand (7-3) travels to play top-seeded St. Joseph (9-1) at Kennedy Stadium in Bridgeport in a rematch of the 2019 Class L championship game, which St. Joseph won, 17-13. This year, St. Joseph's only loss came to then-unbeaten Darien, 42-14 on Oct. 30. Hand played a tough schedule and has losses to Fairfield Prep, New Canaan and Shelton, but the Tigers won their last five games.

Windsor vs. Cheney Tech

No. 4 seed Cheney Tech (9-1) hosts No. 5 Windsor (9-1) in Manchester. Cheney Tech has won its last four games, but the Beavers haven't played a team like Windsor, whose only loss was to top-seeded St. Joseph.

Bristol Central vs. Maloney

No. 6 seed Bristol Central (9-1) takes on third-seeded Maloney (9-1) at Falcon Field. Maloney's defense has been tested this season by teams like Hall and Southington, but the Spartans haven't seen anyone like Bristol Central senior quarterback Victor Rosa (2,607 rushing yards, 34 touchdowns, along with eight passing touchdowns and 737 passing yards). Bloomfield was the only

team to beat Bristol Central, 7-6 in the first game of the season. Maloney advanced to the semifinals two years ago but lost to eventual runner-up Hand, 42-0.

CLASS M

Branford vs. Avon

No. 5 Branford (8-2) travels to No. 4 Avon (7-2) in a rematch of a Nov. 5 game won by Branford, 21-7. Avon, whose other loss was to Bloomfield, closed out the season with a three-game winning streak. Branford was shut out by Guilford and Amity.

Ellington vs. Rockville

No. 7 Ellington (7-3) heads down Rt. 83 once again to face No. 2 Rockville (8-2) in a rematch of the Thanksgiving Eve game. Rockville won that game 27-7 behind De'Shaun Perry's three touchdowns (two passing, one rushing). The Rams would like to return to the Class M semifinals; they lost to Weston there 37-0 in 2019.

Torrington vs. Granby/Canton

No. 6 Torrington (7-3) travels to Granby face No. 3 Granby/Canton (7-3), which righted itself to win four straight after losing to Windsor Locks/Suffield/East Granby on Oct. 25. Torrington finished its season with three straight wins after losing to Ansonia on Oct. 29. In 2019, Granby/Canton lost in the Class M quarterfinals to Waterford, 10-6.

CLASS S

Morgan vs. Bloomfield

Eighth-seeded Morgan (8-2) heads upstate to play No. 1 Bloomfield (10-0), which has beaten all comers this season fairly handily, with the exception of a 7-6 season-opening win over Bristol Central. Morgan lost to Ellington 28-26 on Nov. 19 but closed the regular season with a win over OSW. Bloomfield is on a mission after losing to Sheehan in the Class S championship game in 2019.

Notre Dame-Fairfield vs. Cromwell/Portland

No. 7 Notre Dame-Fairfield (8-2) will travel to Pierson Park in Cromwell to face undefeated and second-seeded Cromwell/Portland (10-0), which closed out the regular season with a 33-21 win over Rocky Hill on Thanksgiving Eve. Notre Dame-Fairfield lost two of its last four games, to Newtown, 10-6, and Masuk, 29-28.

Lori Riley can be reached at lriley@courant.com.

Avon

from Page 1

year or if we were going to get shut down for having so many cases."

Avon finally played Northwest Catholic on Oct. 1, and the Falcons ended up winning more than two games. Now, improbably, they're in the Class M playoffs as the No. 4 seed hosting No. 5 Branford (8-2) on Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.

"It's really unbelievable," said Dawiczyk. "Seriously. You would have never thought that. We were just hoping to win games this year because we've never won games."

Avon (7-2) was able to make up games against Tolland (a 7-3 win on Oct. 15) and Rocky Hill (a 46-21 win on Nov. 18). They couldn't make up the game against Notre Dame-Fairfield, and it was declared a no contest due to the circumstances.

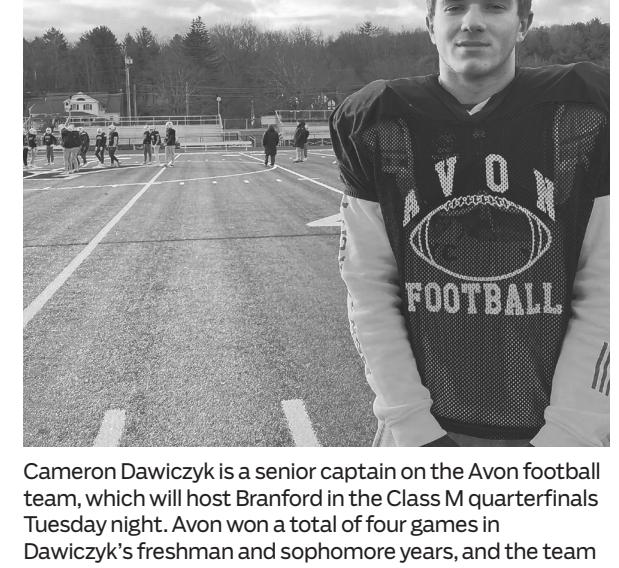
Those seniors taught this year's senior class about leadership and perseverance.

"They taught us about just staying together even though we weren't the greatest team," Dawiczyk said. "We loved playing. I loved coming to practice. Even when I was injured freshman year, I came every day. In the offseason, we grinded it out and got stronger together. I got other people to play. We built the program up."

They learned more about perseverance last year and again this year. And they have Redman to thank for where they are now.

"He remade the entire program," Dawiczyk said. "We had no guys. He really gave life to the program."

Lori Riley can be reached at lriley@courant.com.



Cameron Dawiczyk is a senior captain on the Avon football team, which will host Branford in the Class M quarterfinals Tuesday night. Avon won a total of four games in Dawiczyk's freshman and sophomore years, and the team had to postpone its first three games this season due to COVID-19 issues. LORI RILEY/HARTFORD COURANT

"We loved playing. I loved coming to practice. Even when I was injured freshman year, I came every day. In the offseason, we grinded it out and got stronger together. I got other people to play. We built the program up."

— Cameron Dawiczyk, Avon senior captain, on his early days with the team

JETS

Wilson found second-half groove against the Texans and looks to build on it

By Dennis Waszak Jr.

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Zach Wilson was back for the New York Jets, and so were the up-and-down moments of a rookie quarterback shaking off some rust.

The No. 2 draft pick in April was sidelined four games with a sprained ligament in his right knee — and it showed early. Wilson was 6 of 12 for 44 yards with an interception in the first half at Houston, but got considerably better in the second half while helping New York to a 21-14 victory Sunday.

He finished 14 of 24 for 143 yards and ran for a touchdown, playing through some soreness in his knee.

"Yeah, he's tough as nails," coach Robert Saleh said Monday. "His grittiness, toughness and his desire to get better is pretty darn high in terms of just how hard he works at it."

It wasn't a fantastic performance by any stretch, and Wilson criticized himself after the game. But with the way he was struggling before the injury with nine interceptions and just four touchdowns and lots of mental errors, it's small steps that count in the big picture when it comes to Wilson.

"I love that he's hard on himself," said Saleh, adding that the coaches feel the same way about themselves in trying to put Wilson in the best position to succeed. "Was it his best game? No. Did he do a lot of things; did he get comfortable as the game went on? Absolutely." He led a 10-play, 70-yard drive right before halftime that was capped by a touchdown. There was also an 11-play, 75-yard drive on New York's opening possession of the second half, which ended with Wilson running it in from 4 yards and diving over the goal line for the go-ahead score.

GIANTS

It hasn't been pretty, but it has been enough to keep the team's playoff hopes alive

By Tom Canavan

Associated Press

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — A year ago, the New York Giants got off to a 1-7 start and remained in the playoff race all season because they played in the weakest division in the NFL — the NFC East.

Their postseason hopes ended in the finale when Washington (7-9) beat Philadelphia in a game in which the Eagles lifted starting quarterback Jalen Hurts in the fourth quarter trailing by three points. New York (6-10) finished a game behind in the division.

Things haven't changed much this season. Joe Judge and the Giants got off to another bad start (1-5), and they are now 4-7 after Sunday's 13-7 win over the Eagles. Winning the NFC East will be tough. Dallas (7-4) is in first place with a three-game lead.

Hold on though. The NFC

records: the Cardinals, Packers, Buccaneers, Cowboys, Rams and 49ers. The Niners at 6-5 are at the bottom rung of that group.

Then comes the NFC's seventh playoff berth, the last of the three wild cards. The Giants are a game out of the seventh spot along with almost everyone else in the conference except Detroit (10-1).

The Giants have six games left to make a run at their first playoff berth since 2016. It's a long shot, especially because the offense isn't doing much and the O-line is banged up and not playing well. Wide receivers Sterling Shepard, Kenny Golladay and Kadarius Toney have been in and out of the lineup with injuries, and running back Saquon Barkley is still finding his way coming off last year's ACL surgery.

For the Giants to make it to the playoffs, the defense would have to continue its run of keeping the team in games and taking away the ball from opponents.

PATRIOTS

Stingy defense puts Pats in good position entering tough stretch of games

By Kyle Hightower

Associated Press

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. — It's beginning to feel like old times in New England.

The Patriots were solid in all three phases as they romped to a 36-13 win over Tennessee on Sunday. It was their sixth straight victory and kept them atop the AFC East standings with five games remaining.

It marked the 15th winning streak of six or more games since 2001 for New England (8-4). It hasn't had a nine-game winning streak since starting the 2015 season 10-0.

It sets up a pivotal three-game stretch that includes two games against defending division champion Buffalo (Dec. 6 and Dec. 26). That sandwiches the Patriots' Week 14 bye and a trip to Indianapolis (Dec. 18) to face a Colts team that blew out the Bills earlier in November.

"It's a huge challenge. We know that," coach Bill

SCOREBOARD

NBA						
EASTERN CONFERENCE		W	L	PCT	GB	
Brooklyn	14	6	.700	—		
New York	11	9	.550	3		
Philadelphia	11	10	.524	3 1/2		
Boston	11	10	.524	3 1/2		
Toronto	9	12	.429	5 1/2		
SOUTHEAST		W	L	PCT	GB	
Miami	13	7	.650	—		
Washington	13	7	.650	—		
Charlotte	13	9	.591	1		
Atlanta	11	10	.524	2 1/2		
Orlando	4	18	.182	10		
CENTRAL		W	L	PCT	GB	
Milwaukee	13	8	.619	—		
Chicago	13	8	.619	—		
Cleveland	10	10	.500	2 1/2		
Indiana	9	13	.409	4 1/2		
Detroit	4	16	.200	8 1/2		
WESTERN CONFERENCE		W	L	PCT	GB	
SOUTHWEST		W	L	PCT	GB	
Dallas	10	8	.556	—		
Memphis	10	10	.500	1		
San Antonio	5	13	.278	5		
New Orleans	5	17	.227	7		
Houston	3	16	.158	7 1/2		
NORTHWEST		W	L	PCT	GB	
Utah	13	7	.650	—		
Portland	10	10	.500	3		
Minnesota	10	10	.500	3		
Denver	9	10	.474	3 1/2		
Oklahoma City	6	13	.316	6 1/2		
PACIFIC		W	L	PCT	GB	
Golden State	18	2	.900	—		
Phoenix	17	3	.850	1		
L.A. Clippers	11	9	.550	7		
L.A. Lakers	11	11	.500	8		
Sacramento	8	13	.381	10 1/2		

MONDAY'S RESULTS
Philadelphia, 101; Orlando 96
Denver at Miami, late
Charlotte at Chicago, late
Indiana at Minnesota, late
Oklahoma City at Houston, late
Cleveland at Dallas, late
Washington at San Antonio, late
Portland at Utah, late
New Orleans at L.A. Clippers, late

TUESDAY'S GAMES
Memphis at Toronto, 7:30p.m.
New York at Brooklyn, 7:30p.m.
Detroit at Portland, 10p.m.
Golden State at Phoenix, 10p.m.
L.A. Lakers at Sacramento, 10p.m.

SUNDAY'S RESULTS
Golden State 105, L.A. Clippers 90
Milwaukee 118, Indiana 100
Boston 109, Toronto 97
Memphis 128, Sacramento 101
L.A. Lakers 110, Detroit 106

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE								
ATLANTIC	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA	
Toronto	23	16	6	33	66	49		
Florida	21	14	3	31	77	56		
Tampa Bay	20	12	5	37	64	56		
Detroit	22	10	9	33	61	71		
Boston	18	11	7	22	56	51		
Buffalo	21	8	10	3	19	60	70	
Montreal	23	6	15	2	14	54	83	
Ottawa	19	4	14	1	9	46	73	
METRO.		GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA
Washington	22	14	5	33	78	52		
Carolina	20	15	4	1	31	66	43	
NY. Rangers	20	13	4	3	29	60	54	
Columbus	19	12	7	0	24	67	59	
Pittsburgh	21	10	7	4	24	62	59	
New Jersey	19	9	6	4	22	57	58	
Philadelphia	20	8	4	4	20	49	61	
NY. Islanders	17	5	10	2	12	32	52	

WESTERN CONFERENCE								
CENTRAL	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA	
Minnesota	21	14	6	1	29	78	64	
St. Louis	21	11	7	3	25	71	59	
Winnipeg	21	10	7	4	24	60	60	
Colorado	18	11	6	1	23	73	56	
Nashville	21	11	9	1	23	58	63	
Dallas	19	10	7	2	22	53	55	
Chicago	21	7	12	2	16	45	67	
Arizona	21	4	15	2	10	39	77	
PACIFIC		GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA
Edmonton	20	15	5	0	30	77	59	
Calgary	21	12	4	5	29	70	42	
Anaheim	22	11	8	3	25	70	61	
Vegas	21	12	9	0	24	66	64	
San Jose	21	11	9	1	23	55	58	
Los Angeles	20	9	8	3	21	53	54	
Seattle	21	7	13	1	15	58	73	
Vancouver	22	6	14	2	14	51	73	

NOTE: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per conference advance to playoffs.

MONDAY'S RESULTS
Seattle at Buffalo, 7p.m.
Arizona at Winnipeg, 7:30p.m.
Vancouver at Ottawa, 7:30p.m.
Pittsburgh at Calgary, 9p.m.

TUESDAY'S GAMES
Detroit at Boston, 7p.m.
San Jose at New Jersey, 7p.m.
Washington at Florida, 7p.m.
Arizona at Minnesota, 8p.m.
Columbus at Nashville, 8p.m.
Tampa Bay at St. Louis, 8p.m.
Carolina at Dallas, 8:30p.m.
Anaheim at Los Angeles, 10:30p.m.
NY. Islanders at Philadelphia, ppd

WEDNESDAY'S GAMES
Philadelphia at N.Y. Rangers, 7p.m.
Colorado at Toronto, 7:30p.m.
Seattle at Detroit, 7:30p.m.
Vancouver at Ottawa, 7:30p.m.
Pittsburgh at Edmonton, 10p.m.
Vegas at Anaheim, 10p.m.

SUNDAY'S RESULTS
Washington 4, Carolina 2
Minnesota 4, Tampa Bay 2
San Jose 2, Chicago 0
New Jersey 5, Philadelphia 2
Boston 3, Vancouver 2
Toronto 5, Anaheim 1
NY. Islanders at N.Y. Rangers, ppd

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

FRIDAY'S GAMES						
CONFERENCE USA Championship		Western Kentucky (8-4) vs.	UTSA (11-1), 7p.m.			
Pac-12 Championship						
Kent State (7-5) vs.						
Northern Illinois (8-4), noon						
Mountain West Championship						
Utah State (3-9) vs.						
San Diego State (11-1), 3p.m.						
Sun Belt Championship						
Appalachian State (10-2) vs. La-Lafayette (3-10), 3p.m.						
SEC Championship						
Georgia (12-0) vs. Alabama (11-1), 4p.m.						
American Athletic Championship						
Houston (11-1) vs.						
Cincinnati (12-0), 4p.m.						
Big Ten Championship						
Michigan (11-1) vs. Iowa (10-2), 8p.m.						
ACC Championship						
Pittsburgh (10-2), 8p.m.						
Wake Forest (10-2), 8p.m.						
Also: USC (4-7) vs. California (4-7), 11 p.m.						

NFL WEEK 13

FAVORITE	LINE	UNDERDOG	LINE	FAVORITE	LINE	UNDERDOG	LINE
Dallas	4 1/2	(47%)	at New Orleans	Minnesota	7 1/2	at Detroit	7 1/2
at Brooklyn	6 1/2	(217)	at Atlanta	Arizona	2 1/2</td		

MEN'S BASKETBALL
Tuesday: vs. Maryland-Eastern Shore, at XL Center, 7 p.m., CBSSN

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
Friday: at Seton Hall, 7 p.m., SNY

UCONN
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UCONN FOOTBALL

Quarterback Zergiotis enters transfer portal

By Dom Amore

Hartford Courant

Jack Zergiotis, who began the season as UConn's starting quarterback, is entering the NCAA transfer portal.

Zergiotis announced his decision via Twitter on Monday, thanking

his former UConn coaches. There figures to be player departures from UConn, and arrivals, via the portal, now that new coach Jim Mora is in place.

The 6-foot-1 Zergiotis, from Montreal, played 10 games for the Huskies in 2019. Following the canceled 2020 season, he emerged

from five contenders as the starter this season but completed only 36 of 86 passes with five interceptions.

UConn lost his two starts — Fresno State and Holy Cross — after which coach Randy Edsall left the program. Interim coach Lou Spanos went with Steven Krajewski in Week 3 and Tyler Phommachanh in Week

4. When Phommachanh's season ended with a knee injury, Krajewski started the remainder of the games with Zergiotis getting a few series against Clemson on Nov. 13.

In the season finale against Houston on Saturday, both Krajewski and Micah Leon were injured, forcing Spanos to use freshman walk-on

Jacob Drena from Southington, a sure sign Zergiotis was leaving.

Playing only two-plus games for UConn this season preserved a year of eligibility, giving Zergiotis three seasons wherever he ends up.

Dom Amore can be reached at damore@courant.com.



UConn's Adama Sanogo is the Big East's Player of the Week following his performance in the Battle 4 Atlantis. **TIM AYLEN/AP**

UCONN MEN'S BASKETBALL NOTES

Sanogo is Big East Player of the Week

By Dom Amore

Hartford Courant

Accolades continue to come for UConn forward Adama Sanogo, who was named the Big East Player of the Week in men's basketball.

Sanogo starred for the Huskies in the Battle 4 Atlantis tournament in the Bahamas last week as UConn beat Auburn and Virginia Common-

wealth in OT and lost a close game to Michigan State. The sophomore was named to the All-Tournament Team after averaging 18.0 points, 7.7 rebounds, 2.7 blocks on 47.8 percent shooting from the floor and 90.9 percent from the line. Sanogo scored a career-high 30 points in the double OT win over Auburn last Wednesday.

Earlier this season, Sanogo was named to the Big East's honor

roll after back-to-back 20-point games to start the season. He was also an honorable mention among the Big East's preseason all-conference picks.

Despite the first loss of the season, UConn rose five spots in Associated Press Top 25 men's college basketball poll released Monday, checking in at No. 17. Duke rose to No. 1 with its win over Gonzaga, which dropped

to third. Purdue is second, and defending NCAA champion Baylor, the Battle 4 Atlantis champion, is No. 4.

The Big East is represented in the top 25 by Villanova at No. 6, UConn and Seton Hall at No. 25, with Xavier among others receiving votes.

Dom Amore can be reached at damore@courant.com

UConn

from Page 1

lively, and it didn't look like a dead team."

Hurley leans on three veterans to spark the Huskies: R.J. Cole, Tyrese Martin and Whaley.

"Those guys play with either tremendous force like Tyrese and Isaiah, or R.J. that just charges, a critical charge or a loose ball or hockey assist," Hurley said.

A play like Tyrese makes against Gabe Brown, who is potentially a first-team All-Big Ten-level player, blocks his jump shot at a critical point then beats two guys to the ball and then goes down and dunks it."

For UConn, there is still plenty to improve upon. One of the biggest keys for upcoming games, including Tuesday's against Maryland-Eastern Shore (2-4), will be limiting turnovers. The Huskies struggled against the defensive press and averaged 18.3 turnovers in the three Bahama games.

"We need to be more poised and more aggressive. We were hesitant a lot of times," Whaley said.

Hurley reiterated that the focus

for the Huskies has been limiting turnovers and how they handle defensive pressure.

"Most importantly take care of the ball," Hurley said. "The two turnover games we had out there makes it challenging to win. ... We need to play better against pressure, and the guards need to handle the ball better."

Here's everything else you need to know about Tuesday's matchup against the Hawks:

The basics

No. 17 UConn (6-1)

Maryland-Eastern Shore

Time: 7 p.m., Tuesday

Place: XL Center, Hartford

Series: UConn leads 2-0

Last meeting: UConn 84-50,

Dec. 17, 2012, at XL Center

TV: CBS Sports Network

(Jason Horowitz, Steve Lappas, Sherree Burruss) UConn Sports

Network (Mike Crispino, Wayne Norman). 97.9-ESPN Hartford, Sirius-137, XM-206, SXM App-965,

WILI-1400-AM (Willimantic).

WATR-1320-AM (Waterbury).

WAVZ-1300-AM (New Haven).

WGCH-1490-AM (Greenwich).

UMES (2-4) probable starters, sixth man

Da'Shawn Phillip, G, 6-5, Jr.; Kevon Voyle, G, 6-3, Jr.; Dom London, G, 6-1, Jr.; Zion Styles, G, 6-3, Sr.; Nathaniel Pollard Jr., F, 6-5, Sr.; Chace Davis, G, 6-3, Fr.

No. 17 UConn (6-1) probable starters, sixth man

R.J. Cole, G, 6-1, GS; Isaiah Whaley, F, 6-9, GS; Tyrese Martin, G/F, 6-6, Sr.; Adama Sanogo, F, 6-9, So.; Andre Jackson, G/F, 6-6, So.; Jalen Gaffney, G, 6-3, Jr.

The matchup

UCONN's offense: The Huskies need to get Sanogo going early against a short Hawks team. He only had six points on 2-for-3 shooting for UConn in its last game against VCU.

UCONN's defense: UConn has four players averaging at least one steal per game (Cole, Gaffney, Jackson and Sanogo). Look for these four to cause havoc and lead to easy

fast-break points for the Huskies.

UMES offense: Styles leads the Hawks in scoring with 12.5 points per game. In his last game against Liberty University, Styles had a rough shooting night, going only 4-for-11 from the field with 10 points.

UMES defense: The Hawks have allowed an average of 65.8 points per game. Look for UConn to play with pace and get its big scorers (Sanogo, Cole and Martin) going offensively against a Hawks team that lacks height and length in its starting lineup.

UCONN key: Force turnovers on the defensive end, while limiting turnovers on the offensive end.

UConn had 22 turnovers in its last game against VCU.

Player to watch: Cole. He played UMES four times (4-0) in his two seasons at Howard and averaged 20.5 points in matchups with the Hawks.

About UMES coach: Jason Crafton has coached for 18 years, including his last stop in the NBA G-League with the Delaware Blue Coats before joining the Hawks on Apr. 24, 2019.

UMES mascot: The hawk was chosen in 1948.

Famous alumni: Former NFL player Art Shell.

Entering the poll

Georgia, BYU and Notre Dame joined the Top 25 this week at Nos. 20, 21 and 24. The Cougars were last ranked for one week in 2019.

The Bulldogs were in the poll for the final nine weeks last season.

The Irish were in the preseason poll last year before falling out.

Exiting the poll

West Virginia, Virginia Tech and UCLA all dropped out of the Top 25.

Paused Hawkeyes

Iowa had to cancel its trip to Cancun, Mexico, over the holiday because of a COVID-19 issue in the program. The Hawkeyes also missed a game against in-state rival Drake. Iowa's next game is potentially on Thursday against Duke in the Big Ten/ACC Challenge.

Did you know?

Hypothermia occurs when the body's temperature drops below 95 degrees.

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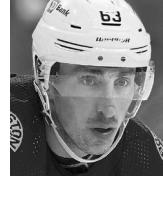
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NATIONAL SPORTS REPORT

SHORTS

Bruins' Marchand suspended 3 games



The NHL on Monday suspended Bruins forward Brad Marchand for three games for slew-footing Canucks defenseman Oliver Ekman-Larsson during Boston's 3-2 victory a day earlier. It is the seventh suspension of Marchand's career. He will lose about \$92,000 in pay. Late in the first period of Sunday night's game, the two players were pursuing the puck when Marchand hit Ekman-Larsson high and at the same time kicked the Canucks defenseman's legs out from under him. No penalty was called at the time. He went on to score the tying goal on a third-period power play and set up David Pastrnak's go-ahead score for the win. "What causes this play to rise to the level of supplemental discipline, the NHL Department of Player Safety said in a video on Monday, "is Marchand's use of both his upper and lower body to take Ekman-Larsson to the ice in a dangerous fashion, and the speed in which the players are traveling toward the boards." Marchand's history, which includes a two-game suspension for slew-footing in 2015, also played a role.

Walker taken out of Knicks' rotation



Alec Burks is in the Knicks' starting lineup and Kemba Walker is out of the rotation. Coach Tom Thibodeau announced the change amid continued struggles from the starters, and with Tuesday's game against the Nets looming. Thibodeau cited the need for added size by inserting Burks, who had great success starting in Saturday's victory over the Hawks while Walker rested. "I just don't like the way we've been trending, the inconsistency of our team. I want to do something bigger," Thibodeau said. "I want our defense to get bigger at the point of the attack. So basically that's it. You got to do something different." Walker has struggled this season — especially defensively — but removing him from the rotation is controversial because of the point guard's stature as a four-time All-Star. He was signed in the offseason for \$18 million, and touted as a gamechanger while the team and media highlighted his homecoming. But Thibodeau said he didn't want to play Walker on a second unit with two other guards — Derrick Rose and Immanuel Quickley. He added that Walker is out of the rotation "as of right now."

Messi wins 7th Ballon d'Or of career



Lionel Messi won the men's Ballon d'Or for a record-extending seventh time Monday, ending the year in style after a brilliant final season with Barcelona and earning his first major international trophy with Argentina. Alexia Putellas became the third winner of the women's award for an outstanding season with Barca and Spain. The 34-year-old Messi led Argentina to the Copa America title in July after losing in four major international finals. "I'm very happy to be here, happy to keep fighting for new trophies," he said through a translator. "I don't know how many years I have left, but I hope many more. I'd like to thank all my (former) teammates at Barcelona and Argentina." Messi finished with 613 points to top Bayern Munich and Poland striker Robert Lewandowski on 580. Both 2020 awards were canceled because the coronavirus pandemic disrupted the season. Putellas helped Barca win the treble and scored 26 goals in 42 games overall. The midfielder netted in the Champions League final against Chelsea, and in August she was named UEFA women's player of the year. —News services



NASCAR Cup champion Kyle Larson, right, talks with teammate Alex Bowman during Next Gen car testing on Nov. 17. GRANT HALVERSON/GETTY

AUTO RACING

In '22, it's full speed ahead

NASCAR's focus on growth, enhancing fan experience

By Jenna Fryer
Associated Press

NASCAR will close its season this week with a three-day celebration in Nashville that ends with the crowning of three new national series champions in Kyle Larson, Daniel Hemric and Ben Rhodes.

NASCAR will do burnouts on Lower Broadway near popular honkytonks Doc Holliday's Saloon and Bootleggers Inn. Its 2022 cars will be on display at Riverfront Park and drivers will participate in Q&A sessions before the finale Thursday night at the Music City Center.

Then attention turns to the pivotal upcoming season.

Among the issues facing NASCAR is its Next Gen car, set to debut in February following a yearlong delay during the pandemic. The series also wants to continue tweaking its sprawling, 38-week schedule, which now includes more short tracks, more road courses and a dirt race — but puts the season finale at Phoenix Raceway for a third consecutive year next season despite calls to rotate the championship event.

NASCAR understands it must improve its at-track experience for fans and recognizes the urgent need to showcase its competitors and create interest in its current driver crop, which has generally lacked pizzazz since Dale Earnhardt Jr., Jeff Gordon, Tony Stewart, Jimmie Johnson, Carl Edwards, Matt Kenseth and Danica Patrick retired.

The answer could be a behind-the-scenes docuseries and cameras could potentially be in Nashville this week collecting footage.

Many racing series are chasing the docuseries idea since Formula One and Netflix part-

nered on the "Drive To Survive" program that has helped the sport explode in popularity in the United States. NASCAR President Steve Phelps was hopeful earlier this month that discussions with NBC Entertainment could lead to a show that chronicles the 2022 season beginning as early as the February exhibition race in Los Angeles.

NASCAR needs its fans to care about its drivers, and it needs its superstars to be accessible to those who invest — both emotionally and monetarily — in the sport. Although NASCAR was one of the first sports to resume competition during the pandemic and the first sport to complete its entire 2020 season, its events have been anything but normal.

To get to the finish line a year ago, NASCAR scrapped all qualifying and practice sessions and three-day weekend events became one-day shows in front of fewer fans. Drivers mostly went directly from their motorhomes to the race car with little engagement with their own race teams, let alone any spectators.

Policies fluctuated based on virus positivity numbers — and Phelps himself admitted the vaccination rate in the garage is "not high enough... to me, there's a responsibility that individuals have to each other" — but some normalcy had returned by the final two races of the season. Martinsville had one of its largest crowds in years and Phoenix saw the return of practice, qualifying and spectators freely roaming the Arizona garage area earlier this month.

Phelps wants the same Phoenix energy level at all of NASCAR's races and the series hopes to ensure fans get the most bang for their buck.

"We need to make sure that the marketing and promotion is as strong as it can be. We need to make sure we are driving storylines," Phelps said. "We need to make sure the event

experience is better than it's ever been. Are we satisfied with where that is? We're not."

Restrictions will still be in place this week in Nashville, the second year NASCAR chose The Music City for its awards show. The weeklong event in 2019 was wildly popular, and drivers could be spotted up and down Lower Broadway at many of the popular downtown bars.

The awards ceremony was canceled last year. Its return to Nashville promises plenty of opportunities to see the Next Gen car but few organized chances to get close to the drivers. Public tickets weren't sold to Thursday night's coronation of Larson as Cup Series champion, Hemric as Xfinity champion and Rhodes as the trucks winner.

But by the time NASCAR opens the 2022 season, one week ahead of the NFL's Super Bowl in February at the Coliseum for the exhibition Busch Clash, Phelps expects enthusiasm for the new season to be soaring.

He believes NASCAR will draw "an unbelievable crowd at the Coliseum" and upward of 40% in the stands will be attending their first Cup race. NASCAR showed in 2021 it will make bold changes to the schedule and its plans to continue growth rolled into Los Angeles the day after Larson won his first Cup title so he could promote the Busch Clash.

Larson is NASCAR's first champion of Asian descent, and the Cup Series now includes Mexican driver Daniel Suarez and Bubba Wallace, the only fulltime Black driver at the national level.

"We are going to expand the fan base. We're doing it by meeting people where they are, whether that's physically at a racetrack or through other mediums," Phelps said. "Going to the L.A. Coliseum ... with our Next Gen car is a proof point, frankly, that we're going to be bold. Whether it's the schedule or car ... we're going to take calculated risks."

NFL ANALYSIS

Passing fancy: Run teams lose identity

By Rob Maaddi

Associated Press

Throwing the football in the NFL is so alluring it can seduce even the best run teams.

The Colts forgot they have Jonathan Taylor after relying on Carson Wentz's arm to build a 10-point halftime lead against the defending Super Bowl champion Buccaneers.

The Eagles climbed into the playoff race because of a potent rushing attack and let Jalen Hurts throw it away against the Giants.

The Ravens and Browns combined for five turnovers on pass plays in the second quarter Sunday night. Lamar Jackson threw three picks. Baker Mayfield and receiver Jarvis Landry fumbled on sacks.

If the Ravens didn't play against the Browns, the NFL's five top running teams would've lost in Week 12. The Titans, who entered with the league's fifth-ranked rushing offense, kept rolling on the ground with 270 yards, but they were blown out by the Patriots 36-13.

Most baffling was the Colts' play calling in the second half.

Facing the league's stingiest run defense, the Colts couldn't get Taylor going early. The Buccaneers (8-3) weren't going to allow Taylor, the league's first 1,000-yard rusher this season, to beat them. They dared the Colts to throw, and Wentz responded with three perfect TD passes in the first half for a 24-14 lead.

The Colts (6-6) got the ball to start the third quarter and kept on throwing. Wentz dropped back on 26 straight plays at one point, including the final eight plays in the second quarter. The results in the second half were disastrous. Shaquil Barrett's strip-sack of Wentz led to a touchdown for the Bucs. Wentz then threw a pick on a deep ball in which Antoine Winfield Jr. made a leaping grab over Michael Pittman Jr. That led to another touchdown for the Bucs.

When the Colts finally handed it to Taylor again in the fourth quarter, he gained 58 yards on eight carries, including a game-tying TD. But Tom Brady then led the Bucs on the winning drive with Leonard Fournette scoring his fourth TD of the game for a 38-31 victory.

Why didn't Taylor run the ball on the first three possessions of the second half?

"We were rolling," Colts coach Frank Reich said.

The Colts became enamored with the pass because it was working, but the turnovers ended up hurting them. Perhaps, giving the ball to Taylor in the third quarter would've allowed the Colts to extend the lead and avoid those costly mistakes.

"When we turn it over, it gives them life," Reich said.

Reich's former offensive coordinator, Nick Sirianni, helped the Eagles turn things around this season after he committed to the run. The first-year coach guided the Eagles (5-7) to three wins in the last four weeks with a heavy emphasis on the run, led by Hurts. But against the Giants, the Eagles moved away from it for stretches. Hurts threw 31 passes and was picked three times, including twice in the red zone. He had a chance at the end to win it, but Jalen Reagor couldn't make a catch and the Giants held on for a 13-7 win.

When the Eagles ran, they had success, racking up 208 yards on the ground. They just didn't run it enough to beat the Giants (4-7).

"When you turn the ball over three times, there are things at play there, but not a winning performance," Sirianni said. "Running the ball was good."

The Ravens (8-3) defeated the Browns (6-6) 16-10 despite a career-worst four interceptions by Jackson. The Browns entered with the league's No. 1 rushing offense, but handed the ball to Nick Chubb and Kareem Hunt just 15 times while Mayfield made 37 passes.

As the weather gets colder in December, running teams will have to do what they do best to win.

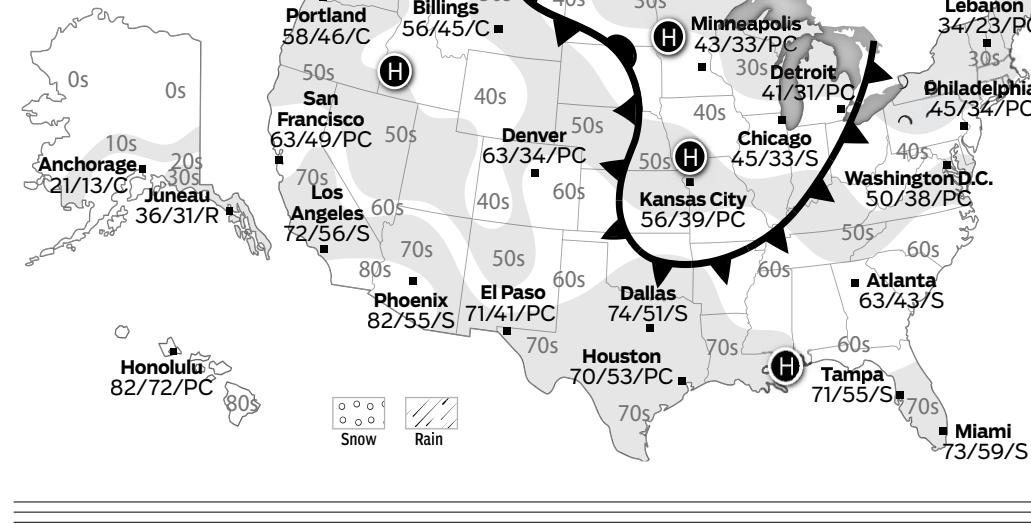
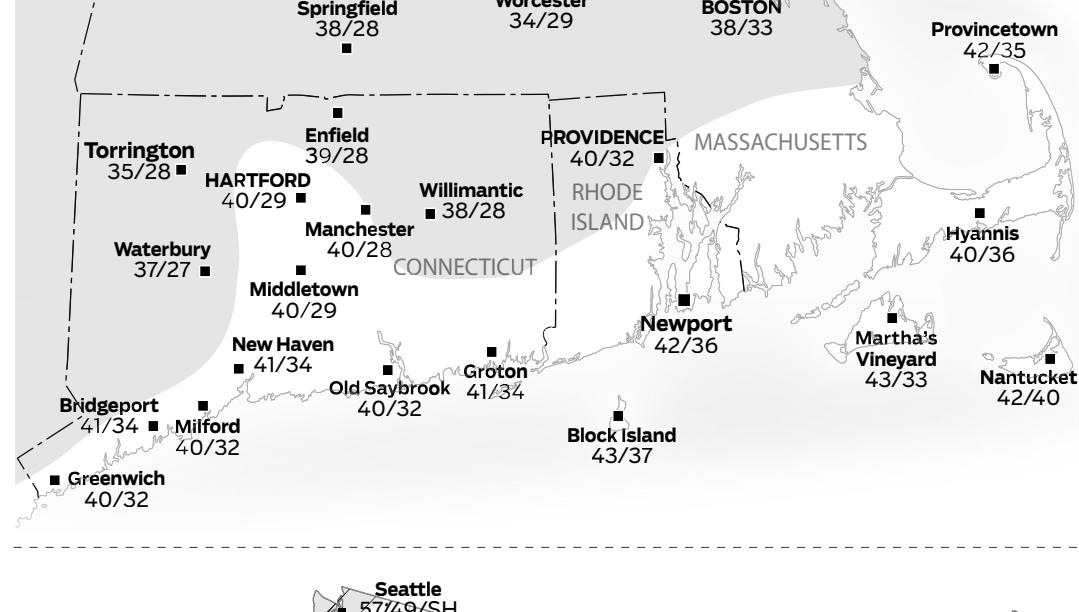
WEATHER

TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
SUNRISE Cloudy	SUNRISE Cloudy	SUNRISE Cloudy	SUNRISE Cloudy	SUNRISE Cloudy
NOON	NOON	NOON	NOON	NOON
SUNSET	SUNSET	SUNSET	SUNSET	SUNSET

Thickening cloudiness and very cool. Southwest wind 5 to 10 mph.

HIGH
LOW

40°	44°	52°	45°	38°
29°	30°	35°	25°	23°

YOURCAST**AROUND THE WORLD**

Today's forecast in cities not included in the maps above:

NEW ENGLAND		Baltimore	Nashville	San Juan	Budapest	40 36 C
Bangor	35 19 PC	Baltimore	46 32 PC	Nashville	60 43 PC	38/79
Burlington	36 29 C	Bismarck	45 29 C	New Orleans	68 49 S	722
Caribou	30 18 PC	Boise	48 32 PC	New York	42 34 PC	72
Concord	37 25 PC	Buffalo	39 32 C	Okla. City	73 40 S	16 588
Montpelier	38 23 C	Charleston	64 42 S	Omaha	56 38 PC	72
Mt. Wash.	12 6 PC	Cincinnati	50 33 PC	Orlando	73 53 PC	72
Portland	38 28 PC	Cleveland	41 31 PC	Pittsburgh	43 31 C	72
Woods Hole	41 32 PC	Indianapolis	48 32 PC	Raleigh	57 41 S	72
		Jacksonville	68 42 S	St. Louis	57 42 PC	72
		Las Vegas	78 51 S	Salt Lake City	54 33 S	72
		Miami Beach	75 67 S	San Antonio	75 55 S	72
		Albuquerque	45 31 S	San Diego	70 54 PC	72
		Atlantic City	48 29 PC	Bermuda	70 63 PC	72

KEY: **S** Sunny, **C** Cloudy, **PC** Partly Cloudy, **R** Rain, **SH** Showers, **SN** Snow, **SF** Snow Flurries, **T**-storms

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OUTLOOK

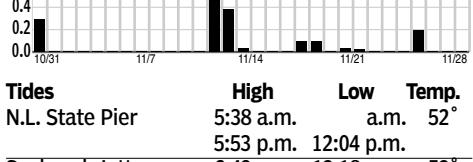
A cold front crossing the eastern Great Lakes on Tuesday will cause thickening cloudiness and perhaps a couple afternoon sprinkles or flurries. It will remain very cool with high temperatures ranging from the mid-30s to the lower 40s. High pressure will bring partly sunny skies on Wednesday along with seasonable temperatures. Another cold front will approach on Thursday bringing milder temperatures and the chance for rain showers. Temperatures will return to seasonable levels behind the front on Friday. We'll have to watch for the potential of snow or rain on Saturday.

-Gary Lessor

ALMANAC

Precipitation In Inches	Total Normal
Yesterday (by 7 p.m.)	0.00 0.14
Month to date	1.95 3.38
Total this year	51.99 42.84
Snowfall In Inches	
Yesterday (by 4 p.m.)	0.0 0.1
Total this year	Trace 2.0

Precipitation, temperature at Windsor Locks

30-day Precipitation History In Inches

Tides

N.L. State Pier	High	Low	Temp.
5:38 a.m.	a.m.	52°	
5:53 p.m.	12:04 p.m.		
6:49 a.m.	12:18 a.m.	52°	
7:04 p.m.	12:57 p.m.		
9:32 a.m.	4:04 a.m.		
9:47 p.m.	4:43 p.m.		
6:55 a.m.	12:35 a.m.	50°	
7:21 p.m.	1:10 p.m.		
7:15 a.m.	12:59 a.m.	48°	
7:41 p.m.	1:34 p.m.		
7:19 a.m.	1:13 a.m.	50°	
7:45 p.m.	1:48 p.m.		

Air Quality Forecast For Today

Good	21°
Low	1
Air Quality Today	Ultraviolet Index Today

Today	Tomorrow
Sunrise 6:57 a.m.	6:58 a.m.
Sunset 4:21 p.m.	4:21 p.m.
Moonrise 2:12 a.m.	3:27 a.m.
Moonset 2:13 p.m.	2:40 p.m.

River Stage at Hartford: 4.07 feet at 5:30 p.m.